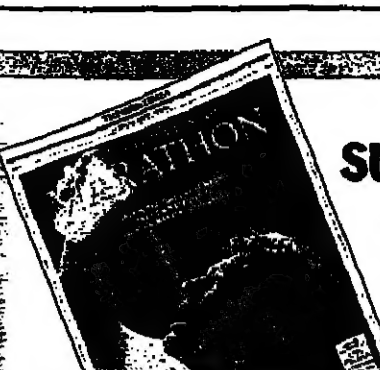




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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

A 12-page guide to the London Marathon, the capital's biggest jamboree



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Minister abandons cautious line

Portillo backs Israeli raids on Lebanon

By Christopher Walker in Jerusalem and Michael Evans

MICHAEL PORTILLO supported Israel's continuing military action against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon yesterday after helicopters fired rockets into Beirut's suburbs.

Appearing to breach the Government's cautious position on Israel's bombardment, the Defence Secretary rejected accusations that the Israeli military response was disproportionate.

Mr Portillo, who had met Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, in Jerusalem after returning by helicopter from a military briefing in the north of Israel, said: "I would not describe the Israeli reaction as disproportionate. My view is that we look to Israel always to take measures which are considered and which are proportionate."

He added: "Israel is facing a very substantial terrorist threat from Hezbollah. This is designed to undermine the peace process. Katyusha rockets have entered Israel in very large numbers and the bombardment by rockets has continued in recent days."

"A large number of casualties has been caused, a large number of civilians has had to withdraw from that area for their own safety. Therefore Israel is responding to a sustained terrorist threat posed by Hezbollah... terrorist operations which clearly

count upon a human shield provided by the local civilian population."

Earlier, Israeli missiles had pounded targets in the south Lebanese cities of Nabatieh and Tyre, the ancient Phoenician port renowned for its antiquities, where a seven-storey building was said to have been set on fire.

Israeli helicopters also fired rockets into Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah bastion, while jets destroyed an electricity station northeast of the city. Hospital sources said at least eight people were wounded in the Beirut raid.

Mr Portillo's robust support for Israel, which delighted Mr Peres and was welcomed warmly by Israeli diplomats in London, contrasted with remarks by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. On a visit to Brazil, Mr Rifkind was asked whether the Israelis had overreacted to the Katyusha rocket attacks by Hezbollah on Israel's northern border. He replied: "It is difficult to make a judgement. Naturally we understand the background to this. The rockets on northern Israel are indefensible."

Foreign Office sources said the Government had agreed the line to take on Israel's military action and said Mr Portillo had made the same emphasis as Mr Rifkind, that the Israeli attacks were in

response to the Hezbollah rocket attacks.

However, Israeli diplomatic sources said Mr Portillo had clearly spoken out on Israel's side because he was experiencing for himself the tension in the country after the constant rocket attacks on communities in the north.

One source said: "He was echoing what the Israeli newspapers have been saying, which is that the action was not offensive but was a justified defensive response. We are very happy with Mr Portillo's remarks."

In the meantime, the Clinton Administration intensified its efforts to stop the fighting. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, telephoned Farouk al-Sharar, Syria's Foreign Minister. He also spoke to Ehud Barak, Israel's Foreign Minister, and Rafik Hariri, Lebanon's Prime Minister, in an effort to curb the violence.

The Administration has refused so far to criticise the Israeli offensive, blaming it entirely on persistent Hezbollah rocket attacks against Israel, but is worried that the fighting will disrupt the Middle East peace process in which it has invested so heavily.

Stolen passport, page 2
Lebanon's plea, page 11



Donald Macleod with his wife yesterday after leaving the court where two women accused him of assault

Churchman denies sex attacks

By Gillian Bowditch

A LEADING Scottish churchman yesterday denied carrying out a series of sexual assaults on five women, Donald Macleod, 54, Professor of Systematic Theology at Edinburgh's Free Church College,

was alleged to have carried out the attacks at his home and at his private rooms.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court heard evidence yesterday from two unnamed women who had made complaints against him. One woman said she was assaulted in a car

after hearing him preach. "I was shocked. I couldn't say anything," she said. "The professor is a very able preacher, very charismatic, and has a very large following."

Another claimed she was only 17 when the professor

assaulted her at his home after sending out his son to buy an ice cream. The woman's accusations were described by defence counsel as "begging belief". The case continues.

Assault claims, page 3

Oxford returns £350,000 to Nazi's grandson

By Ruth Gledhill and David Charter

OXFORD University yesterday agreed to return the £350,000 endowment from Dr Gert-Rudolf Flick, grandson of the Nazi sympathiser Friedrich Flick, after a fierce campaign from dons and the Jewish community.

Protesters argued that the cash was "tainted" because its original source was the estate of Flick, who was sentenced as a war criminal at Nuremberg. It was returned to his grandson at his request "with regret".

The decision will be seen as an embarrassing climbdown five years after the university accepted the money without referring it to its ethical committee, which screens controversial donations. Dr Flick asked for his donation to be returned after months of damaging publicity and amid concern that there would be demonstrations when the holder of the chair, Professor John Burrow, gave his inaugural lecture next month.

Dr Flick, a millionaire who lives in London, earlier had described his regret at the controversy, which he said had brought embarrassment to the university and himself. In a letter to Dr Peter North, the vice-chancellor, last month, he said he had always felt that the fact he bore the name of Flick "should not preclude me from attempting, in a small way, to help improve things for my own and subsequent generations". The university will continue to fund the Flick chair of European Thought, which is attached to Balliol College, but Continued on page 2, col 5



KALETSKY'S LABOUR

"If this kind of 'on your bike' thinking is really now accepted by Labour then it represents a transformation more significant than the rewriting of Clause Four" — Page 16

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£70m sweetener offered to Railtrack investors

By Jonathan Prynn, Marianne Curphey and Anne Ashworth

INVESTORS in the £1.8 billion Railtrack flotation will be offered the most generous package of sweeteners since the first large-scale privatisations a decade ago, the Government said yesterday.

In a move designed to allay fears about Labour's plans for Railtrack, the flotation has been structured to appeal to prosperous middle-class investors looking for a high return for their savings. Shareholders will only have to pay up-front for half of the shares they are allocated in the flotation on May 20 and will receive a £70 million dividend payment in the autumn.

Small investors will also be able to buy their shares at a small discount to City institutions. About 900,000 have already registered an interest in buying shares in the company, which owns 10,000 miles of railway lines, 1,000

tunnels and 2,500 stations. Financial analysts said the sweeteners meant that small investors will enjoy a return of up to 20 per cent in the first year after the flotation, at least four times the best rates available in building societies.

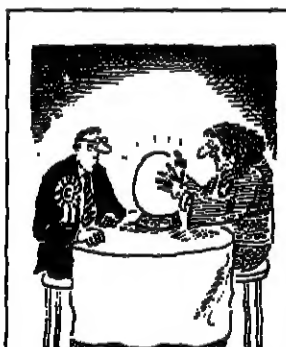
But they warned shareholders to be cautious of the sale. Mark Bolland, technical director at Chamberlain de Broe, a financial advisory group, said: "I would be very wary of it. Rule number one is always that if someone is offering a whopping great return, it is best to be very careful of it. I can't think of anything else that gives anything like that isn't pretty dodgy."

The sale details, unveiled yesterday, infuriated Labour, which accused the Government of bribing investors. Brian Wilson, Labour's rail spokesman, said: "This is just recycled taxpayers' money

and while £70 million won't go far among shareholders, it would have been a useful sum for rail investment."

A group of campaigners against rail privatisation said it would be challenging in court the use of taxpayers' money to fund the dividend. "The prospect of another financial bonanza was held out yesterday to the one million savers and borrowers of the Bristol & West Building Society, which is to be taken over by the Bank of Ireland. They will be entitled to payouts of about £1,000. The announcement means that anyone who invested with all the societies currently converting to banks or being taken over could receive total bonuses of up to £5,600."

Entire stake, page 25
Tempus, page 28
On track, page 29



"I'm looking into the future but I can't see you anywhere"

Short sidetracked

Clare Short was replaced by her deputy yesterday for interviews on government plans to sell Railtrack because of fears that she would answer questions on tax. — Page 2

Police delay

Four 999 calls were needed to summon police to the scene of a paint attack on the Conservative Party chairman, a court was told. — Page 3

Chief Justice tells judges to come down to earth

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

JUDGES must shed their aloof image and speak out to show they do not live "on another planet", the Lord Chief Justice said yesterday.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth said it was not sensible for judges to remain silent when media reporting of trials verged at times on "saturation coverage" and criticism of the courts had reached new heights.

Lord Taylor, the most senior judge in England and Wales, said it was time for judges to break their tradition of silence to counter media excesses. Coupled with the US-style behaviour of some lawyers, these had reached a pitch which threatened to escalate into circus of the kind which "disfigured the trial of O.J. Simpson", he added.

The media did not "shrink from substituting their assessments for those made by the

court" and lambasting the judiciary for not satisfying "what they conceive to be — and indeed aim to shape as — the public's demands," he said. "The problem now is to prevent media coverage from not merely reporting proceedings but adversely influencing them."

If judges spoke out on topics which concern the public "they may overcome the widely held belief, stemming from... years of lofty reticence, that they are out of touch or, even as has been said, living on another planet."

Lord Taylor, addressing a conference at the University of Hertfordshire, St Albans, said the media was scrutinising court cases as never before — often pushing to the limit strict rules on reporting.

He also criticised the tactics of some defence lawyers and the "disturbing tendency" to

use the media in the run-up to an appeal to create public interest and a climate in which the case is seen as a miscarriage of justice. This tended to undermine the appeal process in the public's eye. It could limit the options open to the Court of Appeal by prejudicing any possible retrial and conflicted with a lawyer's duty to the court, and did not extend to expressing a view on a client's guilt or innocence.

Lord Taylor did not mention any case by name. But the trial of Geoffrey Knights, friend of the actress Gillian Taylor, was aborted last year because of pre-trial publicity and several newspapers are being prosecuted.

Judges have also been concerned about some lawyers' behaviour in connection with the West murder trial.

"To have lawyers standing Continued on page 2, col 4

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Terrorist bomb trail leads to semi in Oxford

By STEPHEN FARRELL
AND STEWART TENDLER

A TRAINEE accountant from Oxford found himself at the centre of an international terrorist inquiry yesterday after a Middle East bomber assumed his identity.

Andrew Newman's passport went missing three years ago on a camping holiday in France. He reported the theft and thought nothing more of it. But last week it turned up in the possession of a terrorist who prematurely detonated three kilograms of explosives in the Lawrence Hotel in Arab east Jerusalem. Intelligence sources believe that he was planning to bomb the Al Aqsa

mosque or other Muslim holy sites. Israeli police contacted Britain's National Criminal Intelligence Service, who confirmed that the passport was genuine. Within hours its bewildered owner and his wife, Judi, were questioned by Scotland Yard and Thames Valley detectives.

Mr Newman, 26, was away on business yesterday for the London accountancy firm Deloitte and Touche. His wife spoke of their distress that the trail had led from Jerusalem to their semi-detached house.

"The passport was stolen from a campsite in Paris when we were on holiday in April 1993," Mrs Newman said. "The thieves got into our tent and stole all our belongings. We

reported it to the French police straight away, were issued with replacement documents and effectively forgot about it. We had no idea who had done it and that was the last we heard about it until the police contacted us this weekend."

Neither Mrs Newman nor her husband was Jewish and neither had ever visited Israel, she said. "It is very upsetting to learn that your passport and identity has been used in such a horrible way. My husband is very distressed about it all. We have got absolutely no connections with terrorism or Israel. It was just one of those things which can happen."

Mr Newman's father, Brian, said:

"My son is a very private man and very sensitive. This is the first time we have had anything to do with the Middle East."

British passports can fetch up to £80,000 on the international black market as a travel document accepted across the world. They are coveted by drug-runners, terrorists and spies.

The price depends on the desperation of the buyer. A British passport might fetch a few hundred pounds in the Middle East but would be most valuable in Hong Kong to locals fearing China's takeover of the colony in 1997.

John Stonehouse, the disgraced ex-Labour minister, fled in 1974 using a technique described in Frederick

Forsyth's *Day of the Jackal* by applying for the birth certificate of a child who was dead and therefore had never had a passport.

The Jerusalem bomber's real identity remained a mystery last night as Israeli police won a court order banning publication of his name until April 19.

A Foreign Office spokesman said last night that there was no reason to believe the would-be terrorist was British, but confirmed: "The person who was holding the British passport in the name of Mr Newman was not the person to whom the passport was legally issued."

Lebanon plea, page 11

Shadow minister hits back at criticism from 'highly placed' Labour sources

Tax row prompts Short to pull out of TV interviews

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLARE SHORT was silenced yesterday after she attacked Labour's spin-doctors over their criticism of her support for increasing taxes.

Ms Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, was replaced by her deputy in a series of interviews on the Government's Railtrack self-off because of fears that she would be diverted into answering questions on tax. However, her first interview on BBC Radio 4's *Today* was dominated by her vehement attack on Labour officials who had criticised her.

"There are these unknown, so-called highly placed sources — I don't know who they are," she said. "I don't respect people who hide behind those kinds of description."

On Sunday, Ms Short said: "In a fair tax system, people like me would pay a little bit more." The continuing embarrassment over her remarks prompted party managers, apparently with her agreement, to arrange for Brian

Wilson, a junior transport spokesman, to take her place in further radio and television interviews.

Ms Short has spent five months preparing a policy statement on the Government's plans for Railtrack, published in the company's prospectus yesterday. Officials in Tony Blair's office said she had agreed not to be interviewed because the tax issue would be a distraction.

Although officials said that Ms Short had twice apologised for causing embarrassment in the two interviews, close colleagues said that she felt the party had overreacted to her comments. After officials criticised her remark as naive and unprofessional, she remained defiant, saying: "I will not be silenced."

She added: "I said as a personal remark — and I think politicians should have a moral attitude to politics and not just preach to others — that people like me could afford to pay a bit more tax."

However, she said that she

was not referring to those earning the equivalent of an MP's salary of £34,065. She also received a widow's pension and fees for media work, which increased her income above that of an MP, although she did not say by how much.

Labour figures emphasised that Ms Short's remarks on tax did not affect party policy, which would not be announced until close to a general election. They also dismissed suggestions that she might stand down from the Shadow Cabinet.

Ms Short regularly attracts one of the biggest votes in the Shadow Cabinet election and colleagues acknowledged that it would be a personal embarrassment to Mr Blair if he lost a senior frontbencher appointed to her present post less than six months ago.

John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, defended Ms Short. "Clare has made one or two personal remarks about her own personal situation," he said. "She is entitled to make a personal remark."



Short: "These so-called highly placed sources — I don't know who they are" Campbell: chief of the young spin doctors, known as the "kindergarten cabinet"

How the spin doctors smothered a throwaway remark

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A SINGLE off-the-cuff remark from the forthright Clare Short provoked Labour's backroom team into one of its most combative campaigns to rubbish the views of a senior frontbencher. She said that "in a fair tax system people like me would pay a little more tax."

Labour's spin doctors, among the few who prised themselves out of bed early enough to watch Ms Short appear at 7.5am on GMTV's *Sunday* programme, were dismayed. The comment came days after Tony Blair

had used a visit to the United States to underline his message that middle-income earners would not be vulnerable to higher taxes.

Mr Blair's aides immediately feared that her comments had the potential to wreck huge damage. By 9am, telephone lines between senior officials were humming with plans to dampen the expected media interest in the story.

By lunchtime, senior Tory ministers had started using radio and television news programmes to proclaim a Labour gaffe. Labour officials responded by whirling into over-

drive. By mid-afternoon, journalists were told by senior aides that Ms Short had gone too far, had realised her error and was anxious to put the record straight. She was not referring to middle-income earners, they said, and had agreed to a statement making the point clear.

Ms Short's allies responded. They briefed journalists to the effect that Ms Short's statement did not mean she was accepting blame for a gaffe. One said: "She felt the party was over-reacting."

At this point, party colleagues started to raise questions about Ms

Short's competence. While the Shadow Transport Secretary remained unavailable for comment, frontbench colleagues cast doubt over the wisdom of allowing her to speak beyond her transport brief.

Labour's team of youthful spin doctors, dubbed the "kindergarten cabinet", is led by Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary. Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool, oversaw its formation but he has veered away from day-to-day briefing since taking on a formal frontbench role as public-service spokesman and taking charge of election strategy from the

party's media centre in Millbank. Among the leading lights of the media and policy team are Tim Allan, a Cambridge-educated former television researcher, and Peter Hyman and Pat McFadden, members of Mr Blair's policy team and directly accountable to the leader.

The trio are backed by experienced party workers steeped in Labour tradition, including David Hill, chief media spokesman, Hilary Coffman, a press officer who worked with Neil Kinnock and John Smith, and Anil Kumar, who runs Mr Blair's private office and his diary.

Major salutes 'rock solid' monarchy

The monarchy remains "rock solid" and will emerge from its present troubles, the Prime Minister said yesterday. He saw no need for revolutionary change and paid tribute to the Queen for her grasp of politics.

Interviewed by the BBC, John Major was asked if the Queen was concerned by recent controversies involving her family. He said: "Obviously that turbulence has been unwelcome but the constitutional monarchy itself is, in my judgment, rock solid." The monarchy still held a crucial place in British life. "The monarchy will emerge from its present troubles — I have no doubt about that," he said.

Mr Major said that during their weekly meetings the Queen showed "a very acute knowledge and understanding of the political process and the way in which that impacts on the country. The Queen is a very fine exponent of constitutional monarchy." He believed the Crown would continue to evolve "gently" over the coming years but there was no need for its role to be more clearly defined.

Red card for grey strip

Manchester United and the strip manufacturer Umbro announced that the club's grey away kit has been dropped. From next season players will wear a white top and Umbro has promised supporters a £10 reduction on the jersey. To keep costs down the home black shorts and white socks of the second away strip will be worn. The players abandoned the grey strip at half time at Southampton on Saturday after complaining of visibility problems.

Call for London council

A minister has broken with government policy and called for London to be given an elected authority. The proposal, from an unidentified minister, appears in a leaked letter to the Downing Street policy unit. He argues that present policy is unsatisfactory because there is no voice for London that is seen to be totally independent. He proposes the setting up of an elected central London authority to act for the city's "historic core".

Army recruits 3,500

Almost 3,500 recruits signed up to the Army in the first three months of this year compared with fewer than 2,000 for the same period last year, according to Ministry of Defence figures. The steady increase comes after a concentrated recruitment advertising campaign by all three services. The MOD has temporarily suspended plans to phase out the Army's high street recruiting offices while applications from new recruits remain high.

High sea in Midlands

A million litres of seawater pumped from the English Channel were being transported by tankers yesterday along the M40 to Brindleyplace, central Birmingham, for the new National Sea Life Centre, which boasts Europe's first 360-degree walk-through shark tunnel. Only 10cm of transparent acrylic tubing will separate visitors in the 46th tunnel from marine life passing alongside, overhead and beneath their feet.

CPS suggestion box

The use of police and clerical staff to prosecute minor offences was among a suggestion from London employees of the Crown Prosecution Service, as a way to find £9 million savings required in the CPS budget this year. Another was that the service's 2,000 lawyers be dismissed and re-hired on fixed term contracts. The discussion paper is published by *The Lawyer* magazine today. A senior CPS official said the ideas had been rejected.

Transfer for VIP 'lovers'

A male and a female police officer allegedly discovered having oral sex in one of the VIP lounges at Heathrow Airport were transferred from the airport yesterday as senior officers launched an inquiry. The officers are both married and are uniformed constables on secondment to CID units at the airport. They were allegedly drunk at the time of the incident and could face dismissal for bringing the police service into disrepute.

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Trial plea

Continued from page 1
on the steps of the courtroom expressing their personal belief in the client's innocence to the public at large threatens to escalate into the sort of media circus which disfigured the trial of O.J. Simpson," Lord Taylor said.

There was also a growing tendency for defence lawyers to apply for a trial to be stopped before it had started on the ground that prior media coverage made a fair trial impossible.

Judges had a reputation for being aloof. This led to the view, "not borne out by the facts", that judges are out of touch.

In the absence of any reply it would be assumed that judges believed they could ignore criticism or that they had no good answer to it. On occasion, judges should be prepared to speak out on matters concerning the law and the courts — and be ready to answer criticism and explain policies, he said.

"It should not be done too often, but it can and does have a role to play in the evolution and development of a sound legal system."

Judges have theoretically been free to speak out on matters of public interest since the Lord Chancellor scrapped "vow-of-silence" rules in 1987.

Lord Taylor, who took up his post four years ago, has led the way in making speeches and giving press conferences and interviews. He is also taking a prominent role in opposing the tougher mandatory sentencing proposed by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Mark Stephens, a solicitor who has acted in several prominent cases, said Lord Taylor was right. "The show-boating by some lawyers before the cameras, in effect media trials, has gone on for too long."

Nazi cash

Continued from page 1
it will remove Flick's name. The college declined to comment last night, stating: "It is a matter for the university."

Oxford had changed the title of the professorship to make clear the benefactor was Dr Flick and not his late grandfather. Friedrich Flick was an adviser to Heinrich Himmler and used 48,000 slave labourers, mostly Jewish, to help him to build Germany's richest industrial empire. About 40,000 slaves, whom he obtained from concentration camps, died in appalling conditions. He was jailed for seven years in 1947 but freed in 1950.

The decision follows a letter from Dr Flick to Dr North last Friday in which he said: "I write today to express my wish that my name be removed from the chair and that the endowment money be returned to me."

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, whose article in *The Times* last November initiated the debate, said there could now be greater scrutiny of other sources of university funding. He said Oxford had also accepted money from the late Hermann Abs, a financier, who was on the board that provided money for Auschwitz. He added: "I think there will be some fairly far-reaching questions about the way universities raise their money as a result of this."

The decision was applauded by the Jewish community. Neil Temko, editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*, said: "The issue of compensation to the relatively few survivors of those slave-labour camps, which the donor's grandfather operated in Nazi Germany, has never really been addressed fully. As long as that issue is outstanding, the acceptance of an endowment for a chair was inappropriate."

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Scottish theologian denies sex attacks on five women

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Scottish churchman carried out a series of sexual assaults on five women, a court in Edinburgh was told yesterday. Donald Macleod, 54, Professor of Systematic Theology at the city's Free Church College, denies the charges.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court was told that Professor Macleod assaulted a senior lecturer in statistics after she had visited him at his college rooms in 1986, where they had discussed theology and the Old Testament book of Malachi.

The woman, aged 35, said that the professor had described his wife as a jealous woman and then hugged her, saying that his career would be damaged if anyone found out. She said the professor put his hand under her blouse,

pulled her down and put his hand up her skirt.

"I was physically paralysed," she said. "I may have tried to push his hands away. I kept on talking, telling him that what he was doing was wrong. He said something like, 'If it feels right, it is right.'"

The woman said that after the assault, which lasted between 30 and 90 minutes, the professor had unlocked the door and let her go, saying that she was stronger than he had thought.

Later that year, when she was suffering from depression, she went to a Free Church service in Dunblane, at which Professor Macleod was preaching, and to the social gathering afterwards. She had planned to return to Edinburgh by train but it had

been suggested by someone that the professor give her a lift.

She told the court: "I couldn't say anything. The professor is a very able preacher, very charismatic, and has a very large following." She said that she was forced to accept the lift.

On arriving in Edinburgh, the professor parked close to the university buildings where she had studied and put his hand under her blouse. She left the car and at a later date told a friend.

Andrew Hardie, QC, for the defence, said her tale "begged belief" and he suggested that she had fabricated the assault because the professor had stopped answering her letters.

A 28-year-old graduate said that she had visited Professor Macleod and his son in the summer of 1988 when she was 17. It was the first time she had been left alone in Edinburgh by her parents, who were members of the Free Church. "I was in high spirits and I felt very grown-up," she said.

She said that on arriving at the professor's home in Edinburgh she was shown into the kitchen, where she had a light-hearted chat with the professor and his son. But, she said, the professor sent his son to a shop to buy ice-cream and then persisted in asking how she felt.

She said that he adjusted the blinds, returned to where she was sitting, stood between her legs and told her to stand up. "I'm quite short, and he lowered himself to my level and he asked me again how I felt. I felt quite scared," she said. "He put his arm around me, and then he kissed me, and put his tongue in my mouth and pressed his lower pelvic regions against me."

The woman said that she had told a school friend the next day and some time later had spoken to her parents. Under cross-examination by Mr Hardie, the lecturer denied that she was lying. The trial continues.

Photograph, page 1



Diane and Nigel Thompson yesterday, above, and as they were three years ago

Couple rolled away the stones

A COUPLE who were reduced to tears when they saw themselves on a Christmas video struggling to get through past doors at their home have been named Mr and Mrs *Slimming World* 1996 after losing 21 stone.

Nigel and Diane Thompson took three years to shed almost half their weight. Mrs Thompson, 40, a toolmaker, said: "I managed to hit my target six months ago, but it was a lot harder for Diane because she had to lose so much more."

The couple, from Ferryhill Station, Co Durham, won a holiday to Venice for their

efforts, with Mrs Thompson also taking the title for the greatest overall weight loss. Mr Thompson, 40, a toolmaker, said: "I managed to hit my target six months ago, but it was a lot harder for Diane because she had to lose so much more."

"I loved her when we met and have always loved her."

she's such a wonderful person. Her weight didn't matter to me, but it was clear it mattered a lot to her. I'm so proud of her. She's really stuck at it."

"We've got so much more out of life now," Mrs Thompson said. "Before I could hardly walk a few steps without being out of breath."



Woman cheated her husband to erase memory of his ex-wife

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE wife of an airline pilot was jailed for four months yesterday for fiddling her husband out of thousands of pounds. She lavished the money on expensive home improvements to make the house he had once shared with his first wife her own.

Lila Linaker, 46, a former air stewardess, forged his signature on a Coventry Building Society application to remortgage the four-bedroom detached home in the Northamptonshire village of Ravensthorpe. Her husband, Geoffrey, 37, who was away from home for four nights at a time as a captain with British Midland, left the family finances to his wife, who had once worked as a financial adviser brokering mortgages.

Northampton Crown Court was told that when the deeds came through to release the £88,000, she tricked her husband, who earned £50,000 a year, into signing the papers, paid off the existing mortgage and pocketed the £41,000 difference. The couple have since divorced.

Mr Linaker told the court: "I came home one evening. My wife presented me with a folded form while I was eating dinner and asked me to sign it. She dealt with all the finances and I trusted her completely."

Linaker forged her husband's signature on the back of the Coventry Building Society cheque and paid it into a personal account, of which her husband knew nothing.

He discovered his wife's deceit only when, by chance, he found a string of concerned letters from his bank manager at the bottom of a cupboard in their son's bedroom. Mr Linaker was advised by his lawyers to go to the police after the couple's acrimonious divorce in 1994. He has since won custody of their son, Ian, now ten.

Linaker, who had been married before and had two sons from a previous marriage, also raided her husband's bank account, using some money to renovate the house and frittering the rest. The couple met while she worked

for British Midland. Mr Linaker was still married to his first wife but Lila eventually moved into the former marital home.

Ian was born in 1985, but they had to wait until 1988 for her divorce before they could marry. By the time they were married, she was already plotting against him.

She took £28,429 from a personal loan account he had set up at Lloyds Bank using his Gold American Express Card in 71 forged withdrawals. She also forged his signature to open an Optima credit card account with American Express and used it to run up a £7,500 bill. She hid the details from her husband by intercepting statements and letters from the bank.

Asked by Geraldine Chapman, for the prosecution, if his wife ever told him about money problems, Mr Linaker said: "Quite the contrary. She said we were saving money."

Thousands of pounds were spent on curtains, carpets and furniture. Lila Linaker told the court: "I was doing up the house. My husband had lived there with his first wife and I wanted to make it my own." She also donated £4,000 to a local church. She pleaded guilty to five counts of forgery, between 1987 and 1991, two of them specimen charges.

Yvonne Coen, for the defence, said: "When Ian was born, she was suffering from post-natal depression which led to compulsive overspending. It may explain why things started to go awry."

"She spent a lot of money on the house and made payments to the church to alleviate her guilt. She didn't recognise it as wrongdoing, but something which had got out of control."

Judge Francis Allen told her: "It seems to me your husband was a fool - rather a naive fool, but essentially an honest man. You were deceitful, devious and untruthful. It was deliberate fraudulent behaviour over a long period."

Afterwards Mr Linaker said: "I still don't know where the bulk of the money went."

Strict doctrines bind Wee Frees

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Free Church of Scotland, one of the last bastions of puritanism and separatism, was formed in 1843 after half a century of splits and schisms within the Church of Scotland, the established national church.

The Free Church, known as The Wee Frees, has 18,000 regular churchgoers, of whom 6,000 are full members, 140 churches and 110 ministers, trained in theology at Edinburgh.

The Church's door image springs in part from its style of worship. Metrical psalms are sung instead of hymns and no musical instruments are played. The Church closely follows the teachings of St Paul: women are required to keep their heads covered in church and to play no active part in worship.

Members believe in the historical accuracy of the Bible. The Church follows Calvinist doctrine and ad-

heres to the Westminster Confession of 1647. The denomination's main centre of influence is in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Such is its sway in the north that there is no ferry service for the island of Lewis on a Sunday.

The Free Church is separate from the Free Presbyterian Church, known colloquially as The Wee Wee Frees, which was formed in 1893. The Free Presbyterian Church is considered stricter than The Wee Frees and made news when Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, resigned as an elder after attending the Catholic funeral of a legal colleague.

The Free Presbyterian Church is believed to have 6,000 worshippers and is considered one of the wealthiest churches in Scotland. Television, the theatre and the cinema are regarded by many of its members as sinful.

MP tells of police delay after Mawhinney hit in paint attack

BY A STAFF REPORTER

FOUR 999 calls were needed to summon police to the scene of a paint attack on the Conservative Party chairman outside the Commons, a court was told yesterday. Despite requesting their "swift attendance", the MP Alan Duncan said it was at least 20 minutes before officers appeared.

In the meantime Mr Duncan tried to make a citizen's arrest of people allegedly involved in throwing paint and flour at Dr Brian Mawhinney in protest at the Immigration and Asylum Bill.

The delay was the subject of a top-level police inquiry. Bow Street Magistrates' Court, in central London, was told. It resulted in police apologies to both the Cabinet minister and Mr Duncan, his Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Before the court are four students, Karen Doyle, 19, from Camden, Naveed Malik, 18, from Clapton, Amanda Egbe, 20, from Stoke Newington, Nick De Marco, 28, from Upper Clapton Road, Clapton, and Anthony Gard, a teacher, from Brockley, all London.

They each deny two charges of common assault and one of threatening behaviour on November 15 last year. Stuart Sampson, for the prosecution,



Mawhinney: jacket was stained by orange paint

claimed that all except Mr De Marco were directly involved in hurling plastic bags of orange paint and flour at Dr Mawhinney and his wife, Betty. One of the bags of paint caught the minister on the back, also splattering his wife. The damage to her clothing and handbag cost her £500 to put right, she told police.

Mr Sampson said Mr De Marco, a former president of the students' union at King's College, Camden, had actively encouraged the others.

Dr Mawhinney, who passed placard-waving demonstrators chanting "racist, racist" as he arrived and left the heavily policed court building, spent 40 minutes in the witness box describing the incident shortly after the State Opening of Parliament.

As his wife listened from the well of the court, Dr Mawhinney recalled how they had just left the House of Commons and were walking across nearby Abingdon Green to take part in interviews in a temporary BBC studio, when a barrage of paint and flour "missiles" was hurled at him.

He tried to "put some distance" between him and his wife to draw their fire but ended up leaving her some feet behind him and nearer the demonstrators than he was. The couple eventually achieved an "element of sanctuary" inside the studio.

Dr Mawhinney, who was briefly reunited with his paint-covered suit jacket as it was made an exhibit in the case, said he did his best to wipe paint from his face before going in front of the cameras.

Mr Duncan told the court that he and Sheila Gunn, head of public relations at Conservative Central Office, happened to be walking towards the Mawhinneys when the attack happened. The minister's "Northern Ireland training was clearly useful".

Mr Duncan, who was left with paint on his clothes after demonstrators brushed against him, said that once the Mawhinneys were inside the studio he borrowed a cameraman's mobile phone to dial 999.

"I said there had been an attack on a Cabinet minister... and their swift attendance was called for. But in the course of 20 or more minutes that ensued I made a total of four phone calls."

During one of them the police operator advised him he was entitled to make a citizen's arrest if those involved tried to get away. Mr Duncan said after his third call he attempted just that. Television news footage played to the court showed him running after the alleged attackers. He eventually put his arm around one of the women defendants.

"I said to them that I am entitled to make a citizen's arrest but please wait until the police arrive."

The hearing continues.

Award for villagers who got their man

BY RICHARD DUCE

FURIOUS villagers who formed a posse to help police to track down a burglar after he broke into their homes were presented with a special award last night.

The people of Kelsall, near Chester, received a Good Citizen commendation from the Chief Constable of Cheshire in what is believed to be the first time an entire community has been rewarded in such a way.

The villagers lent their cars to police and joined the search for the burglar, who made break-ins or attempted break-ins at 12 homes in the early morning of September 3 last year. Wayne Sellars was eventually cornered, arrested and found to be armed with a flick

knife. He was jailed for 18 months.

Sellars had already begun his burglary spree when a villager reported him acting suspiciously at 6am. Police then called in a spotter plane and tracker dogs to trace him. Mike Corwood, 37, a farmer, gave the police use of his Land Rover after Sellars was spotted on his land.

"The police did not know the area and they were welcome to use my vehicle. I went with them giving directions," he said. "It was like something from the movies. People were saying, 'Let's have him, let us keep him out of the village.' It was a job well done."

Pamela Smyth, 32, who saw Sellars running across a field, said: "As soon as we heard

walkie-talkies and the police plane overhead, my husband Frank went upstairs to the bedroom and trained his binoculars on the field. Suddenly he spotted the burglar, who had red hair, near some bushes, and dashed outside to tell the police. Everyone then dashed into the field and ran after the man until they managed to catch him."

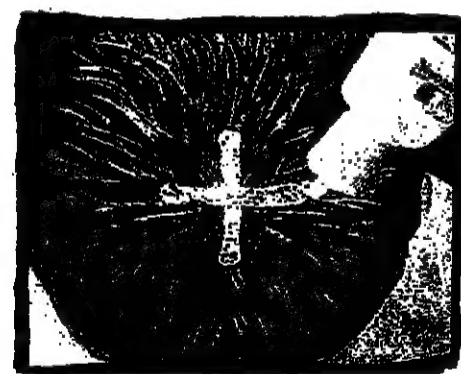
"We in Kelsall take pride in our houses and we believe we are safe here. We want to know it is safe for our children. For someone to come in and disrupt the quiet of the village makes us all sad. Emotions were running very high."

"To see the posse going out across the field was like something from the olden days - the whole community bonding together. When the

men returned and said they had caught him everybody was excited and very happy."

Jane Holden, 35, said she and her husband Stephen, also 35, allowed police to use their back garden as a cut-through. "They asked Stephen how to get to a certain part of the village, and he said, 'Jump in my Audi and I will show you.' He ended up ferrying them all over the village. The villagers were all standing around excited, waiting for the news of an arrest."

Mervyn Jones, the Chief Constable, said when making the award last night: "This is an excellent and practical example of the public and police working in total co-operation in order to secure the arrest of an offender."



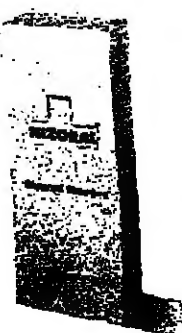
To many this concept would sound melodramatic. Not to us. Only dandruff suffers know what a heavy cross this condition is to bear. An itchy, flaky scalp will not only cause physical distress, it can undermine your confidence, too. Our research taught us that dandruff is caused by a microbe. A medical condition demanding a reliable medical solution - Flax Aid.

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Plenty of puff: Sarah Desoto with transplant surgeon Martin Elliott yesterday

Airway transplant breathes life into doomed children

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH surgeons have pioneered a life-saving transplant to replace the windpipe in children and babies who cannot breathe.

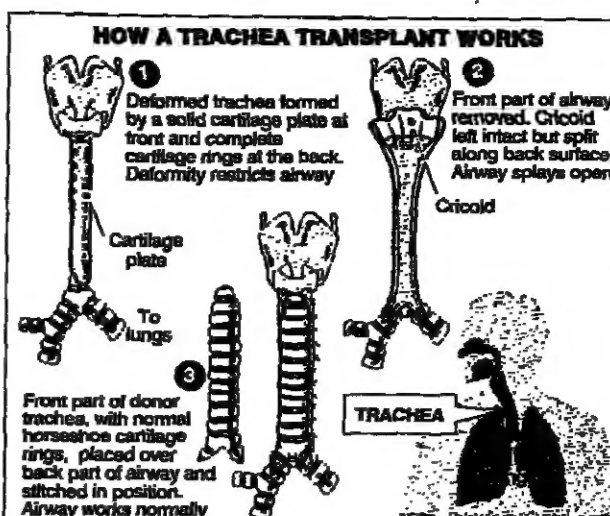
Surgeons at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in central London have developed the technique for children whose windpipe has been damaged through injury or was abnormal from birth.

Results from the first 24 children to undergo the procedure, aged from five months to 18 years, are to be presented at a meeting of the American Association of Thoracic Surgeons later this month. Twenty of the children are alive. All had been expected to die without treatment.

Martin Elliott, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at Great Ormond Street, who carried out eight of the operations, said: "All the children had already undergone reconstructive surgery on their windpipes but it had failed. Transplantation was their last hope."

The children were suffering from tracheal stenosis — narrowing of the windpipe — which causes noisy breathing and great distress. Mr Elliott said: "Imagine running 100 metres and then breathing through a straw and you will get some idea of how distressing this must be."

Transplantation of the windpipe had been thought impossible because laboratory experiments had shown that the live tissue, which consists of cartilage and muscle, was rejected. However, work on adults in Germany during the 1980s showed that the wind-



pipe could be patched with pieces of donated tissue that had been preserved in chemicals. For the 24 transplants carried out at Great Ormond Street and at the Kinder Clinic at the University of Bonn none of the children had needed immunosuppressant drugs and none of the donor windpipes was rejected. "The preserving process kills all the immune-stimulating elements of the graft so it does not induce an immune response. It is very unusual," Mr Elliott said.

The operations lasted from three to eight hours and some were of "horrendous" difficulty, depending on what had been done to the windpipe before, Mr Elliott said. Patients spent from four days to six months in intensive care while a new lining grew over the inner surface of the transplanted tissue. In some cases this blocked the windpipe and had to be removed, extending the recovery period.

Sarah Desoto, 3, had a

transplant when she was 18 months old for a congenital abnormality of her windpipe. Surgeons at Great Ormond Street had earlier cut out a section which was formed from solid cartilage instead of the normal hollow rings.

Her mother Lindsey, 33, from Lakenheath in Suffolk, said: "The operation went well but after three weeks her breathing started to collapse. She would go blue and needed adrenalin and she was in a lot of distress."

Sarah was transferred to Great Ormond Street where doctors were at first dubious about performing a transplant because of her small size. Mrs Desoto said: "I was pretty much resigned to the fact that she was going to die there. But the doctors did it and now she is quite normal. Without the transplant she wouldn't be here."

Mr Elliott said about 50 children in Britain and Europe could benefit from a transplant each year.

'Flesh-eating' bug kills mother two weeks after baby is born

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

A WOMAN who contracted the so-called flesh-eating bacterium days after giving birth to her first baby has died in hospital.

Jill Maskell, 29, fell ill with necrotising fasciitis a few days after having her daughter Louise in Hillingdon Hospital, London, and was readmitted as an emergency patient two weeks later. When her condition deteriorated she was transferred to the Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, and received pioneering oxygen treatment in a compression chamber at the city's Fort Bovisand medical centre. Doctors hoped that by placing Mrs Maskell in the chamber, used for treating patients with gangrene and carbon monox-

ide poisoning and divers with the bends, they might halt the spread of the bacteria by dissolving oxygen into the plasma of the blood. Oxygen is pumped into a pressurised chamber at three times the normal atmospheric pressure for three hours at a time.

The bacteria that infect the tissue cannot survive if they are oxygenated. Necrotising fasciitis, caused by a common bacteria which, in rare cases, attacks muscle and fat, has killed at least 22 people in Britain since 1994. There are about 50 cases a year and of those some 30 per cent are fatal. Mrs Maskell's infection was too advanced and she died on Friday in the intensive care unit with her husband, Carl, at her side.

Dr Phil Bryson, from the

Fort Bovisand centre, said: "Treating patients in this unit has proved successful in improving the patient's defence mechanism and stopping the spread of bacteria but unfortunately in this case it was not. This patient had severe post-delivery problems and although we have our own theories about how she contracted this condition there will be an investigation."

Mrs Maskell complained of feeling unwell and her legs swelled a few days after she returned to her home in Hartington, west London, after her baby was born on March 20. She had had a normal delivery, without surgery or stitches.

After being ill for two weeks she had surgery, understood to include a hysterectomy, but

her condition did not improve. Five days later she was transferred to Plymouth but died on April 12. Mrs Maskell's daughter is not in danger. Mr Gaskell was too distressed to talk about his wife's illness.

The gangrene-like infection is associated with the common streptococcus bacterium which is carried harmlessly by one in ten people in the throat and nasal passages.

Usually the bacteria causes just a sore throat but in four out of 100,000 people a year it causes toxic shock syndrome. If caught early enough it can be cured with antibiotics but it reproduces rapidly and spreads quickly under the skin by destroying fatty tissue.

By this stage it is resistant to most antibiotics and in extreme cases can kill within



Jill Maskell: victim

hours. In 1994 another mother died from necrotising fasciitis days after giving birth by Caesarean section. At first doctors in Chertsey, Surrey, thought she had septicaemia and was recovering but a microbiologist discovered the bacteria. She died at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, Surrey. Last year Linda Smith, 30, from Falkirk, Scotland, contracted the condition two days after giving birth but survived.

University research 'at risk'

By NIGEL HAWKES

RESEARCH at British universities is under threat, the academics of science, engineering, medicine and humanities said in a report yesterday.

Too many universities are fighting for too little research money, while the rapid growth of student numbers leaves academics less time for research.

A committee chaired by Dr David Harrison, Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge, says that to make optimum use of resources, each university should concentrate on what it does best, some would emphasise teaching, leaving others to bid for research support. A new source of funding is also proposed.

Arts Council poised to grant £30m to National Theatre

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE National Theatre is set to receive more than £30 million in National Lottery money, a grant likely to provoke charges that London's arts institutions are being favoured yet again.

The Arts Council's Lottery Board is expected to confirm soon that it is ready to grant the bulk of the £42 million that the theatre estimates it needs to transform its grey concrete headquarters on the South Bank into an attractive complex. A redesigned entrance will be extended to the river, a square created and

front-of-house and backstage areas refurbished.

There was outrage among MPs, charities and regional arts groups last year when the Royal Opera House was awarded more than £55 million and major grants were announced for Sadler's Wells, the Royal Court Theatre and the Globe project.

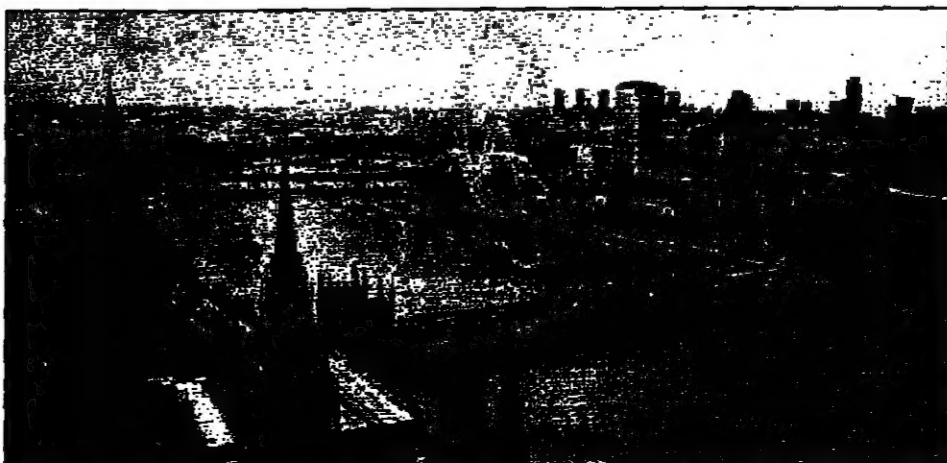
Yesterday David Hanson, MP for Delyn and secretary of the Parliamentary Labour Party's Heritage Committee, said that major regional theatres, such as Theatre Cymru in his constituency, were facing financial crises. "I cannot begrudge the National The-

atre the investment from the lottery because it is a national resource," he said.

"However, I think there should be a much greater emphasis on support for the regional theatre because the vast majority of people who purchase lottery tickets live in the regions."

Senior staff at the National Theatre have been told privately that their application has been successful but there was embarrassment among officials when the news was leaked to BBC Radio.

Neglected gallery, page 33
New London theatre, page 34



An impression of the proposed millennium Ferris wheel on London's South Bank

Giant Ferris wheel nears takeoff

By RUSSELL JENKINS

BRITISH AIRWAYS is backing plans to build an enormous fairground Ferris wheel in the centre of London to celebrate the millennium.

The company is expected to underwrite much of the

wheel as part of its contribution to the national end-of-century party. The airline's involvement, which will be announced tomorrow, could make the project a reality.

The wheel, larger by 172ft than the current largest, in Japan, would tower over Big Ben and the Palace of West-

minster from its site on the South Bank.

The passengers, 16 in each of the 60 capsules, paying £5 each, would travel at 1ft a second, having an uninterrupted view across London and beyond. Plans for the project have been lodged with

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Newsreader urges renewed pride in English language

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A CULTURAL shift is needed to restore pride in the English language, Trevor McDonald said yesterday.

Launching the Better English Campaign, the ITN newsreader said he was prepared for a long campaign to make young Britons as anxious to excel at English as their global competitors were. He was "astounded" at reports that some universities had to run remedial training in English for undergraduates.

The campaign is to send authors such as Beryl Bainbridge and Melvyn Bragg into schools to try to revive interest in the language. Magazines, local newspapers and radio stations have agreed to help to raise awareness of the benefits of good English.

The campaign was announced at last year's Conservative Party conference by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, to end "communication by grunt" among the young.

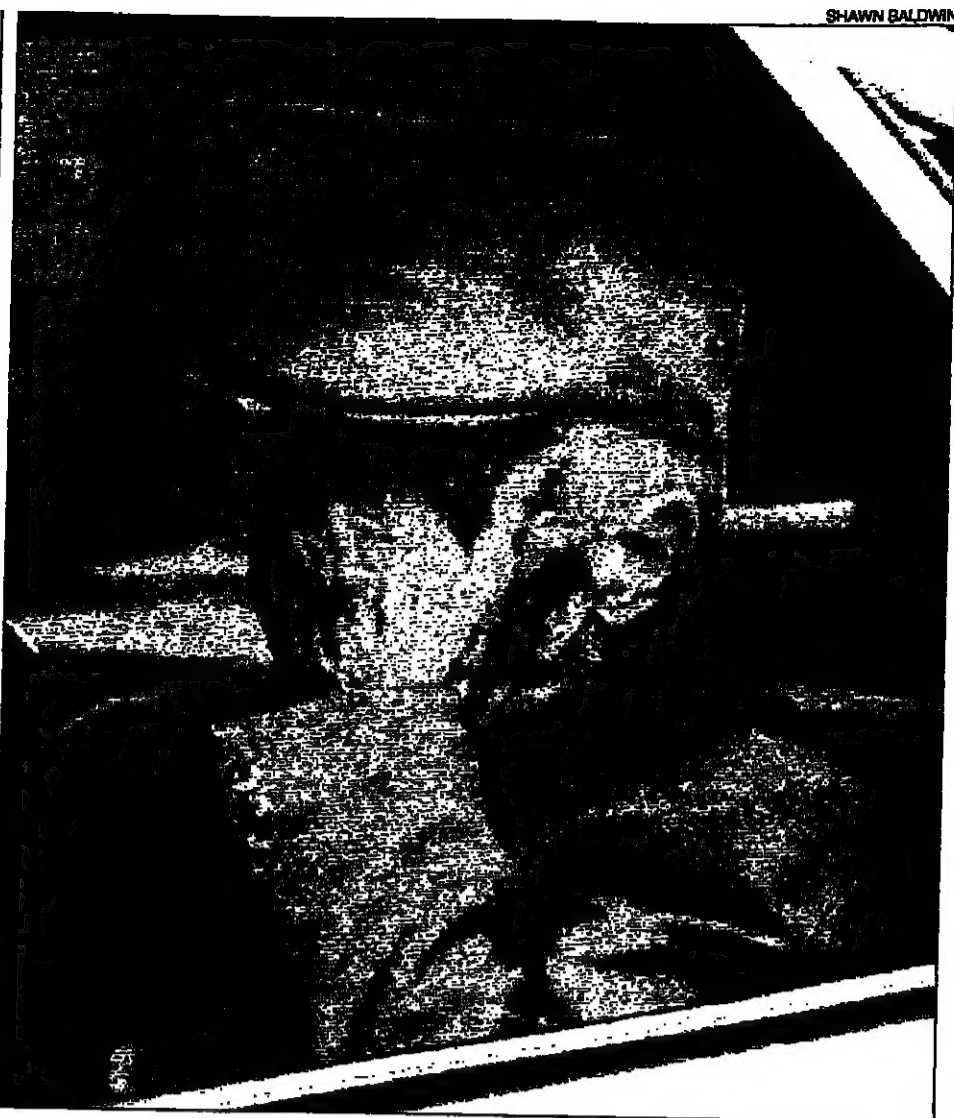
Mr McDonald, the chairman of the campaign, said at the launch in London: "We are

very fortunate to have a major global method of communication as our mother tongue but we are cursed by the tendency to take it too much for granted. It is incredible that we seem to neglect English while other people all around the world are rushing to learn it."

The campaign will focus initially on the importance of communication skills for young people in work or looking for work. Mr McDonald stressed the aim was not to eradicate regional accents but to show that there were advantages in being able to communicate in a more formal way on some occasions.

Peter Davis, chairman of the Prudential and a member of the steering committee, said poor English cost business millions every year, spent on extra supervision and correcting orders. More than £300 million was spent recruiting externally because poor basic skills limited internal promotion.

The campaign is appealing for other organisations to help with costs and equipment.



Szymon Serafinowicz, 85, leaving Dorking Magistrates' Court yesterday

First war crimes trial in Britain to start in autumn

By BILL FROST

BRITAIN'S first war crimes trial will begin at the Old Bailey this autumn with an 85-year-old Surrey pensioner in the dock accused of murdering Jews in Nazi-occupied eastern Europe.

There was sufficient evidence against Szymon Serafinowicz, a retired carpenter living in Banstead, to commit him for trial, Dorking Magistrates' Court decided yesterday.

He is charged under the 1991 War Crimes Act with murdering three unnamed Jews in Belorussia when the region was under Nazi occupation. A fourth charge was dropped.

Peter Badge, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, heard testimony from 20 witnesses during the two-month committal hearing. Some flew to Britain from the United States, South Africa and Israel. One was aged 82.

Mr Serafinowicz settled in Surrey after the war with his

Polish-born wife, who died some years ago. He was arrested and charged in July 1995. Mr Badge said Mr Serafinowicz would be tried at the Old Bailey and should appear on May 10 for a pre-trial hearing.

Mr Serafinowicz, who had been in court throughout the 22-day committal hearing, listened intently as Mr Badge gave his ruling. He frowned and constantly adjusted his flat cap as his sons Kazimierz, 49, and Szymon, 52, looked on from the public gallery. Earlier during the hearing he had shaken his head in disagreement several times.

Nicholas Bowers, Mr Serafinowicz's solicitor, said after the hearing that his client would fight the charges against him and was delighted that one of the counts had been dropped. "In respect of the charges that remain, my client firmly maintains his innocence and he has instructed me to prepare a full and vigorous defence to those charges. He is in fact looking

forward to establishing his innocence before a jury," he said.

The first charge alleges that Mr Serafinowicz murdered an unknown Jew in Mir on November 9, 1941. The second, that he murdered an unknown Jew at Krynice between December 31, 1941, and March 1, 1942. The third count is that he murdered an unknown Jew at Dolmatowiczyna between November 9, 1941, and March 1, 1942.

Mr Serafinowicz is the first person to be prosecuted under the 1991 Act, which allowed charges to be brought by the Crown Prosecution Service, although the offences are alleged to have happened in Nazi-occupied Europe.

The defendant was released on bail yesterday on condition that he surrendered his passport and continued to live and sleep at his home or an address which he gives to the police and the court. Mr Badge extended legal aid for Mr Serafinowicz to cover the Crown Court proceedings.

Rabbits shun love in a cold climate

By ROBIN YOUNG

RABBITS are no longer breeding like rabbits. Pet shops have found that supplies are at an all-time low, and say an alarming loss of fecundity is to blame. Even Harrods is down to its last three rabbits, at £16 each, and does not know when it will be getting any more.

Liz Griffiths, spokeswoman for Pet City, which has 39 pet supermarkets, said yesterday: "Over the past month supplies from breeders have slowed right down. We have no idea why, but it may be that cold weather has been putting them off. The problem seems worst in Scotland, where it is colder. The other suggestion is that people may have been eating rabbits instead of beef, but now they have become much too pricey for that."

Ms Griffiths added that the chain was appealing for breeders with spare animals to contact stores. "We usually have lop-eared rabbits, Netherlands dwarfs, Dutch, chinchillas and angoras, but there is a shortage of all of them," she said.

Fiona Cumming, rabbit buyer at Pet City in Renfrew, Strathclyde, said: "I only have English lops, and two chinchilla crosses, but I may have 20 Netherlands dwarfs on Wednesday at £19.99 each. They are expensive because they are difficult to find."

At the firm's store in East Kilbride, Gail Pollock said: "We had quite a lot of rabbits till Easter, but then our supplies ran out. We would buy any number we were offered at the moment."

In Redhill, Surrey, livestock manager Wendy Jennings said: "I have ten two-toned harlequins at £17.99 each, which I was really lucky to find, and one Delfin, which looks a bit like a hare, at £16.99. I do not know when we will be getting any more."

In Harrods pet shop an assistant said: "Everyone seemed to go on a rabbit binge over Easter, but we have had very few rabbits since. We need someone to tell them to get on with it."



Cocker: stage protest

Watchdog verdict on 'Christ-like' Jackson

By JOANNA BALE

THE pop star Michael Jackson's Christ-like pose in a performance at the Brit awards was "open to misinterpretation", the Independent Television Commission said yesterday.

Seven viewers complained to the commission about "offensive religious overtones" as Jackson stretched out his arms and was embraced by actors during a performance of his *Earth Song* at the pop industry awards, screened by ITV in February. The complaints echoed those of Jarvis Cocker, of the band Pulp, who protested at Jackson's performance by running on to the stage. However, the commission did not uphold the complaints because it did not consider that any code on religious offence had been breached.

Cocker, 32, said at the time: "My actions were a protest at the way Michael Jackson sees himself as a Christ-like figure with the power of healing. I found it extremely distasteful."

However, the commission's report said "it was also possible to argue on the basis of the words of the song and the choreography that he [Jackson] was attempting to portray himself as a messenger on behalf of disadvantaged people and environmental causes."

Robin Meltzer, spokesman for Jackson's British fan club, said Jackson had always said that the song was about the "plight of the planet".

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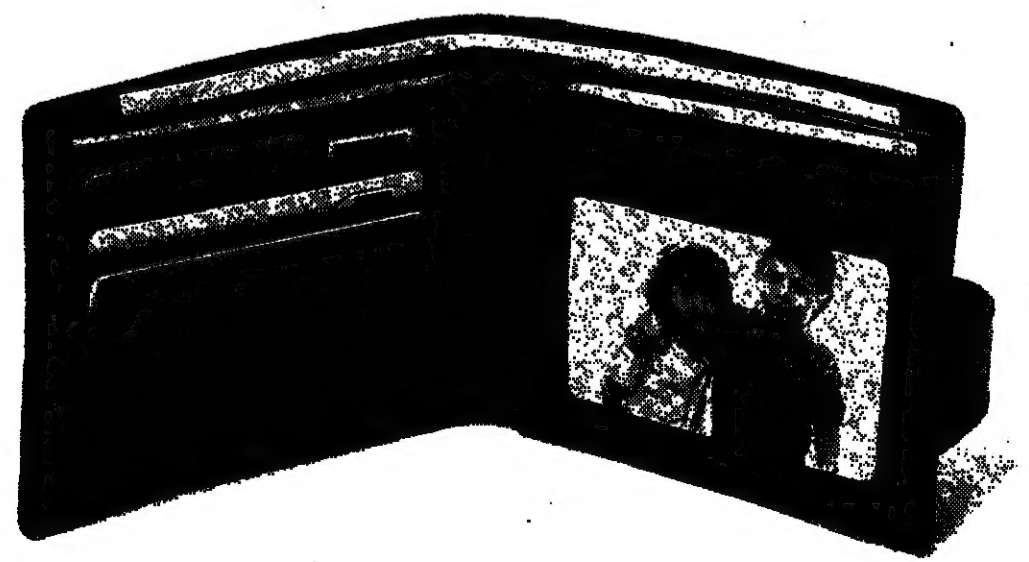
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MPs deny defection rumours but tell Major to watch his step or risk disaster

Centre-left Tories warn against lurch to the right

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

CENTRE-LEFT Tory MPs warned John Major yesterday that any attempt to shift the party to the right in response to its continuing run of poll setbacks would end in disaster.

A handful of senior backbenchers named as potential new defectors since last week's humiliation in the Staffordshire South East by-election denied that they had any intention of leaving the party. But they did so in terms clearly intended to show Mr Major that they were not prepared to go along with radical right-wing measures as a desperate last throw to avert a general election defeat.

Andrew Rowe, MP for Mid Kent, who has often been mentioned as a possible defector, said that he would not leave and had never had any intention of doing so. But he said that the Tory party would "go over the cliff" if it did not come back to the centre

ground. He then launched a ferocious attack on the Right. "A number of young ideologues, who have little experience of real life, are talking the kind of rhetoric which means the public believe we are moving to the right. All it's doing is diminishing the effect of what we have succeeded in doing so far. They go prancing about talking right-wing rubbish in terms which make the ordinary public think we have left the centre ground."

Tory MPs will reassess the latest poll blow when they return to Westminster today after the Easter recess. Labour is hoping that tomorrow's debate on rail privatisation might provoke further unrest. As Labour appealed to wavering Tories to change parties, another MP who has been regularly named as a potential Labour recruit, Peter Temple-Morris, declared: "I am Conservative and I will remain a Conservative." He

and other alleged potential defectors were portrayed "like some sort of rogues' gallery that gets stuck up in a Wild West sheriff's office". He said: "We are not going to defect. As far as I know there will be no more defections this side of the election. And we had all better get on with the job of winning it."

However, he warned the party that if it adopted a right-wing tax-cutting agenda it would lose the election. Centre-left Tories accepted the need for unity but were "frustrated" by calls from the Right — notably from the former leadership challenger John Redwood — that the Government was not cutting taxes enough and was too pro-European.

Mr Temple-Morris said that Tony Blair was winning the battle to claim the centre ground. "We have given him the possibility of claiming it. It's absolutely heaven sent that



Hugh Dykes, left, Peter Temple-Morris and Andrew Rowe: all three rule out any possibility of defecting, but warn the Tory party against adopting right-wing measures in a desperate attempt to remain in government

every time he wins, basically on the centre ground and by claiming it very strongly, we get more calls to leave the centre ground as Conservatives and go to the right and do tax-cutting policies, for example, which would lose us the next election without a shadow of doubt."

pro-European MP for Harrow East, also dismissed rumours that he would defect, saying: "I've said about four million times I'm a lifelong Conservative." But he emphasised that moderate policies were the "essential task" for the Government.

"The danger lies in being tempted down these silly

right-wing paths by the wrong forces in our party who are intent on bringing the Conservative Party down into a crashing defeat if we're not careful," he said.

Earlier, Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip, tried to capitalise on the Government's discomfort. Claiming that Conservative MPs must

now recognise that Labour's by-election win last week was "the end of the road for them", he called on them to switch sides. "Today I am appealing to Tory MPs with a conscience to leave the Government benches and join the opposition to a Government which has totally lost its way."

Goldsmith demands political broadcasts

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE Referendum Party has consulted lawyers in the hope of overturning a rule change that could deny it a political broadcast during the general election campaign.

In the past any party fielding at least 50 candidates has been entitled to at least one five-minute broadcast. But broadcasters and the main three political parties have agreed to tighten the rules, introducing a requirement for "proven electoral support".

Sir James Goldsmith's party, which announced on Sunday that it would fight 600 constituencies, cannot meet the new criteria as its first electoral test will be the general election. A party spokesman said that it was seeking legal guidance on the validity of the decision, which was taken by the Committee on Party Political Broadcasting. The committee has not held a meeting for more than 10 years and reaches a consensus by taking soundings of its members.

The Referendum Party spokesman said: "We are confident that the political parties will not wish to create a closed shop for certain politicians. I am sure they will wish to see a full and open debate." Euro-sceptic Tory MPs plan to raise the exclusion order in the Commons.

Sir James, a billionaire financier who has moved his base from France to London, is a victim of the rapid growth of fringe parties rather than a political conspiracy. At the last general election the Natural Law Party's broadcast featured yodging flying. The prospect of the Official Bunny News Party, which fought last week's by-election, securing the rights to a broadcast by virtue of having 50 candidates has further hardened opinion.

A member of the committee said: "We have to draw the line somewhere. We will consider the Referendum Party's position, but you can't please all the people all the time."

Leading article, page 17

Talk of changing parties is more froth than substance

Nobody who has ambitions for a lasting political career is likely to defect from the Tories to Labour. That is why so few have shifted between the main parties over the years. Consequently, much of the current speculation about which of a familiar list of disillusioned left-wing Tory MPs might jump ship misses the point. Of course, many Tory MPs are unhappy about the state of their party and its drift in a Euro-sceptic direction. But disenchantment about policy is not usually enough for MPs to change party.

The critical ingredient is personal frustration. I talked to both Alan Howarth and Emma Nicholson within a day of their defections. A

common thread was that no one at the top of the Tory party was listening to their complaints (a point strongly disputed by senior ministers in the case of Miss Nicholson). Hence they felt ignored and increasingly detached from the Tory party nationally. This mattered more than the positive attractions of their new party. Indeed, both moved without having secured any assurances about their future political prospects or seats. Both said they would not be standing again in their existing constituencies.

Alan Howarth has not so far been selected in another constituency. Suggestions that he might be picked in the ultra-safe Labour seat of Wentworth have produced

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

strong local opposition. He may have to be imposed at the last minute by the national leadership if he is to get a Labour seat. Most defectors from the main parties have become independents or joined smaller groups, and faced defeat at the subsequent general election. All but four of the 30 defectors to the SDP in 1981-82 were defeated at the 1983 election.

The few defectors to the Tories have generally done better. Reg Prentice, a Labour minister in 1974-76, left the party in October 1977 after a bitter fight in his

constituency. He then joined the Tories and was picked for the safe Tory seat of Dawentry for the 1979 election before then serving as a minister of state. John Horgan, a former junior Labour minister, was one of the original defectors from Labour to the SDP. He lost his seat in 1983, joined the Tories a few years later, and after some false starts, got picked for Orpington before the 1992 election, becoming a minister again last year.

In America, two senators and over half a dozen congressmen, as well as dozens of local legislators, have shifted over the past year and a half from the Democrats to the Republicans, particularly in the south. But they have not always proved popular with their new

parties. A week ago, Greg Laughlin, a party switcher last year, lost in the Republican primary to a hardline conservative despite the backing of the party establishment. Although Mr Laughlin had been a controversial figure anyway, his defeat was seen as a cautionary tale for others thinking of changing party. As in the Wentworth case in Britain, ordinary members of the new party regard defectors with much more suspicion than the national leadership. They often regard them as much as turncoats as members of their former party.

The uncertain political prospects of defectors are a big disincentive to high-profile MPs with further political ambitions, if only for

notoriety. Hence the most likely defectors are disillusioned and personally frustrated mavericks, or those who have already announced their intention to leave the Commons at the next election. Any defectors may be as likely to follow the path of Peter Thurnham and resign the whip to become independents as to join Labour or the Liberal Democrats.

So while there is more froth than substance in the current talk, there are probably at least a few Tory MPs considering resigning the Tory whip. After the dramas of the announcements last October and January, the Tory whips are taking no chances.

PETER RIDDELL

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**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND FINANCIAL DIRECTORS
OF THE TIMES TOP 1000 COMPANIES,
FROM DR PETER HORNE,
PRESIDENT OF MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
PC DIVISION.**



apricot

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
PC DIVISION
Apricot Computers Limited
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Yours sincerely,

Dr Peter Horne
President, Mitsubishi Electric PC Division

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Heralds charge after Cornishmen take up arms

BY ALAN HAMILTON



The design that could cost St Just £5,550

THE tiny Cornish town of St Just, the most westerly in Britain, thought it would award itself a small flourish of civic pride by having its own heraldic emblem, just like big towns do.

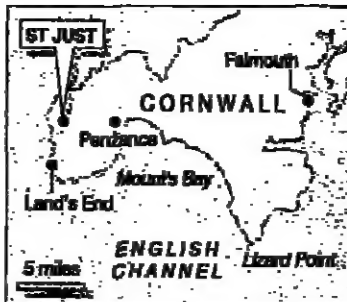
But it reckoned without the College of Arms, an obscure 16th-century law, the arcane rules of heraldry and a request for a fee of £5,550. It never occurred to St Just that the crest it commissioned was not a crest at all, but a coat of arms. And knocking up a coat of arms is not a thing you can do willy-nilly without attracting the beady eye of the heraldic police.

Councillors at St Just last year paid a local artist to produce a heraldic design featuring such

appropriate Cornish symbols as a lighthouse, tin miners' hammers, a bushel of wheat and a fish, topped off with a chough, the symbol of Cornwall. Word of the "crest" reached the College of Arms. It has told the council to remove the offending device from the town hall, road signs and notepaper until it pays the hefty fee to have it approved and registered.

Roy Lee, Mayor of St Just and a local hotelier, said yesterday: "We have no wish to break the law or offend the heralds, but we shall continue to use the crest until someone explains to us exactly why it is illegal."

The town, Mr Lee said, could not afford the college's fee. "We have written to them pointing out that this is a depressed area of high



unemployment and the council's total budget is only £15,000 a year. We asked Garter King of Arms what advice he could give us and he sent a letter back saying it was definitely going to cost us £5,550 and saying he could not offer any advice."

Local authorities all over the

country had their own symbols and they did not have to pay the College of Arms, Mr Lee said. Virtually every school had a badge, but they were not being chased. "We are still confused about which law we are supposed to have broken. However, as a public body we must act responsibly; if it turns out we have broken the law, we will have to change our emblem."

The College of Arms remains adamant that St Just is using more than a mere badge, emblem or logo. Timothy Duke, Chester Herald at the College of Arms, said: "There is no doubt that what we are dealing with here is a coat of arms; there is a shield above which is a helm with a crest above that. Quite simply, if it looks like a coat of arms then it is one; that is common

sense." Mr Duke said the college had a legal duty dating back to its Royal Charter of 1555 to monitor coats of arms to ensure that no two were the same. "St Just cannot simply assume a set of arms of their own devising."

If the dispute cannot be resolved amicably, St Just's 12 councillors could find themselves before a rare Court of Chivalry, which has not been convened since 1952 when the Palace of Varieties Theatre, Manchester, was successfully sued over its coat of arms.

In St Just yesterday, the mayor admitted that one of his road signs bearing the device had been vandalised. "I suspect that a knight on a white charger came by at dead of night and stuck his lance through it," Mr Lee said.

Execution date is set for British murderer

A Briton sentenced to death in Singapore for murdering and dismembering a South African tourist will be hanged there on Friday. John Martin Scripps, 35, was found guilty last year of killing Gerard George Lowe, 33, with a hammer. Mr Lowe's torso and lower limbs were found floating in garbage bags in Singapore harbour in March, 1995.

Scripps was the first Westerner in Singapore to be sentenced to hang for murder. He has decided not to appeal and not to seek a pardon. The Foreign Office said Scripps's family had made no request for the Government to intervene.

Rapist sentenced
A bogus immigration lawyer was jailed for eight years at the Old Bailey for attacking a string of women seeking advice. One was raped. John Bullied, 50, of west London, had been held in a psychiatric hospital for rape in the 1970s.

United 1, crooks 0
Four masked men smashed through the glass front of a Manchester United stadium office to steal 170 tickets, worth £5,500, for the FA Cup Final against Liverpool. The ticket numbers will now be treated as invalid.

More TV licences
Sales of television licences have risen to a record 21 million, mainly because of alternative payment methods, including direct debit and monthly instalments. On April 1 a colour television licence rose £3 to £89.50.

Karate PC jailed
A Grampian police constable was jailed for three months at Aberdeen Sheriff Court for a "totally unprovoked" karate attack on a teenager who was being held in custody. PC Colin Leask, 29, was released on bail pending appeal.

Russians on run
Two young Russian soldiers who fled the war in Chechnya and ended up in Ireland last Friday were on the run again. They failed to arrive back at the Galway bed-and-breakfast which the local Red Cross had sent them to.

Record vintage
A dozen bottles of Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1945 fetched £74,503 at Christie's in New York — a record for a case of wine. The claret had been kept undisturbed in a temperature and humidity-controlled private cellar.

Fears of driest summer for 300 years prompt companies to build aqueducts and fix leaks

Water firm ready to pipe supplies from France

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE in the South East may be drinking French tapwater piped in through the Channel Tunnel this summer, it emerged yesterday.

With rainfall remaining far below that needed to bring reservoirs and rivers back to full flow, water companies are trying frantically to secure supplies as some regions face their driest year for three centuries. Hundreds of millions of pounds are being spent on new aqueducts and pipelines to carry supplies to drought-threatened regions such as the East Midlands, Yorkshire and the North West. Other plans include tackling leaks, opening disused boreholes and tapping flooded quarries.

Nonetheless, householders and industries in many areas face water restrictions for months to come. Unlike last summer, when groundwater reserves were high, the underground supplies for customers

in counties such as Kent and Sussex have fallen close to record low levels.

One small water company, Folkestone and Dover, said yesterday that it was drafting contingency plans which include piping water through the Channel Tunnel, bringing in further supplies by tanker from Norway and setting up mobile desalination plants to turn seawater into drinking water. Jim Lowe, secretary at the company, which serves 60,000 people, said: "We imposed a hosepipe ban on March 1 and we are throwing everybody at leakage control. The situation is serious." The company is also trying to open small boreholes which, until recently, were considered uneconomical.

The rush to secure supplies, which has seen the big companies spending about £350 million, follows last year's drought and low rainfall this winter. The North West has had 63.6 per cent of the rain it would normally expect.

North West Water serves

about seven million people, more than six million of whom have hosepipe and sprinkler bans. It said yesterday: "Our reservoirs are on average 65 per cent full, whereas last year at the same time they were 99 per cent full."

The Manchester Meteorological Office said that the region was suffering its severest drought for 300 years.

The company is spending millions of pounds on projects such as reducing mains leaks and offering to fix leaks on customers' property for free. New aqueducts, pumping and treatment works are being built to increase the flow of water from the River Dee in Wales and parts of the Lake District to east Lancashire and Manchester. Pumping from boreholes has been stepped up and old wells are being reopened.

Rainfall in the South West has been about 90 per cent of usual levels, but it has been far from uniform, leaving South West Water's big reservoir at Roadford, which supplies north Devon, only 37 per

cent full. The company is pumping water from the Lyd and Thrusdel to raise the level. Next week it will begin pumping from the Torridge to Roadford.

More than 80,000 people have hosepipe and sprinkler bans and the company said that, unless the situation improved, it could not rule out extending the restrictions to Torbay and Plymouth.

Sewer Trent has three million customers in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and parts of north Staffordshire under hosepipe and sprinkler bans. It is investigating taking water from the Trent which, until recently, was considered too polluted.

Southern Water has been battling to fill its main reservoir at Bewl, on the Kent-Sussex border, by altering river flows. But groundwater levels are low and the company may have to extend its hosepipe and sprinkler bans beyond the Hastings area to include Brighton, Worthing and eastern Kent.



Thruscross reservoir in North Yorkshire at the height of last summer's drought

Yorkshire confident there will be no more cuts or standpipes

BY PAUL WILKINSON

YORKSHIRE Water is confident that this summer there will be no repeat of last year's supply crisis.

Even though some Pennine reservoirs are little more than a third full, when they were brimming over at the same time 12 months ago, the company believes that a £100 million engineering package it has rushed through this winter will avert the threat of standpipes and rota cuts that so damaged its image during last summer's drought. Crit-

ics are not so sure. Peter Bowler, of the pressure group Water Watch, said: "Like always, it depends on the weather. If it rains like crazy from now until June then they will be laughing, but if it's dry then they could still be in trouble."

By the end of this month Yorkshire will have built 62 miles of pipeline and ten pumping stations with their attendant treatment and storage facilities, a huge achievement in five months. The scheme is designed to push an extra 60 million gallons a day if necessary into the

areas of West Yorkshire badly affected last summer.

The region's water grid was designed to carry supplies from the traditionally wetter western area to the east. Last summer the aquatic balance was turned on its head; on one day in September four inches of rain flooded the streets of York while 40 miles away in the Pennines reservoirs received only a drizzle.

Because the grid's flow was not reversible, Yorkshire Water had to use a fleet of 200 tankers to ferry supplies from the River Derwent

near Selby westwards to Scammonden reservoir near Huddersfield for almost four months. When even that was not enough other tankers brought in more water from Northumbria.

The new pipelines ensure the water will now flow both ways. Much of the additional supplies, however, for the 600,000 consumers of Bradford, Huddersfield and Halifax will come from aquifer boreholes and the rivers Ouse, Derwent and Wharfe. But the aquifers are not full and the rivers are

subject to this year's rainfall. Mr Bowler said: "If it does not rain much this summer there won't be enough water in the rivers for Yorkshire Water to extract under their current government permissions. I suppose if the alternative is dry taps, then no politician is going to refuse a request to take more, but if the flows drop below certain levels then the pumps extracting it will just not be able to work."

Yorkshire disagrees. "Last year over the 12 months we had 70 per cent of our average rainfall. This

new system will allow us to cope with levels as low as 60 per cent," said Robert Minton-Taylor, one of the new team of public relations staff brought in to avoid the gaffes regularly made last summer. "We are quietly confident that there will be no rota cuts or standpipes this summer."

Meanwhile up to a million customers in more than two thirds of the Yorkshire Water region are still covered by hosepipe bans introduced last August. They are expected to continue through the summer.

MPs join fight to honour forgotten squadron

BY ALAN HAMILTON

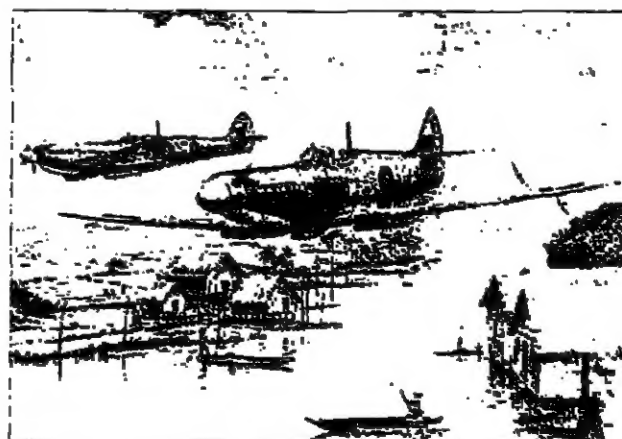
MORE than 40 MPs of all parties, from the CND-supporting Tony Benn to the former Guards officer Michael Mates, have lent support to a campaign to achieve recognition for a distinguished RAF squadron that bureaucrats appear determined to consign to the dustbin of history.

Survivors of 273 Squadron, which played a crucial role in driving the Japanese out of Burma in 1944, have won all-party support for their 50-year battle against what they regard as a catalogue of buck-passing, which they say derives from the fact that the squadron's badge incorporates the ancient Asian peace symbol of a fylfot, hijacked by the Nazis and better known as the swastika.

David Clark, Labour's defence spokesman, has written



Campaigners believe the inclusion of the swastika in the badge of 273 Squadron has overshadowed the vital role the pilots and their Mk VIII Spitfires played in Burma



to Michael Portillo demanding that the Defence Secretary unravel half a century of red tape and acknowledge the existence of an RAF unit whose role in the Far East

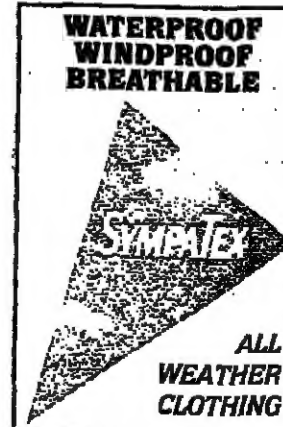
campaign was highly praised by Earl Mountbatten, who said: "Never have land forces in any campaign owed more to their associated air forces."

Dr Clark said yesterday:

"This squadron did an important job with the Forgotten Army of the Far East. Now they are forgotten themselves. It would cost nothing to give them the recognition they

deserve." The squadron's badge does not appear in St Clement Dane's, the RAF church in the Strand, or in the RAF Club in Piccadilly or the RAF Museum at Hendon, north London. An MOD spokesman said yesterday: "273 Squadron was disbanded in 1946 and was not in existence long enough to qualify for recognition."

The official response has enraged Jane Pelling, 67, whose late brother flew Mk VIII Spitfires with 273 Squadron. She is an active campaigner on behalf of the squadron. "The MOD has trotted out the same excuses for 50 years," she said. "The squadron submitted its badge for approval; someone in London did not like it and ever since they have refused to acknowledge us. Ninety surviving members of the squadron feel cheated."



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BT It's good to talk

Defiant Hezbollah mounts new attacks as Israeli warplanes raid deserted Tyre

Lebanon begs for world's help to feed refugees

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN BEIRUT

LEBANON, struggling to cope with the refugee crisis, extended Easter school holidays yesterday, threw open classrooms to shelter several hundred thousand impoverished people fleeing an Israeli free-fire zone in the south, and beseeched the world to send humanitarian aid.

A defiant Hezbollah continued to lob Katyusha rockets into northern Israel and said it would launch terrorist strikes at Israeli targets throughout the world with its "human bomb battalions".

"Tell the world we need food, blankets, money. What is happening here is a real crime against humanity," said Dr Hassan Youssef, responsible for managing the refugee crisis in Sidon, a coastal city in southern Lebanon which was inundated with homeless and hungry people. Sidon, too, felt insecure, with Israeli gunboats visible from the shore.

Many refugees had arrived from Tyre, a ghost city after Israel ordered out its 200,000 inhabitants on Sunday. Until that ultimatum, Tyre's own population had been swollen by refugees from other southern towns and villages. Only the elderly, or those who defiantly refused to flee their homes at Israel's behest, remained in Tyre, with about 300 seeking refuge with the United Nations, whose troops had been sharing their rations with the homeless.

Tyre came under ferocious air bombardment yesterday soon after the Israeli deadline expired. Earlier, Israeli warplanes buzzed the ancient port city when Nabih Berr, Lebanon's parliamentary Speaker



and a prominent Shia leader, risked the perilous road south to offer his support to people still in Tyre.

Elsewhere across southern Lebanon, 6,000 terrified refugees, short of food and medicine, sought the protection of the UN peacekeeping force as Israel and Hezbollah exchanged fire and threats over their heads.

France sent an aircraft with humanitarian aid and a similar mercy flight was expected from Kuwait.

Children due to return to class today were given another week off so that schools could shelter more than 400,000 homeless. Heavily cluttered classrooms overflowed with grubby-faced children, many of them barefoot and munching pieces of flat dry bread.

Teams of Hezbollah welfare workers stopped motorists at main road junctions in Beirut to collect money for the refugees. More than 20 people were jammed into a battered red pick-up truck that pulled up outside one school in Beirut's southern suburbs, an area many refugees feared was unsafe after Israeli raids targeted suspected Hezbollah positions there on Sunday.

"We do not have any relations to stay with," said Majid, 30, a farm labourer and father of four. His brother, Ahmad, 38, a father of seven who worked for the UN force in southern Lebanon, said: "We did not want to put ourselves in the UN's hands. It is not safe. Israel does not give a damn about the United Nations or anyone else."

Jerusalem: Israel agreed yesterday to let Nayef Hawatmeh, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine guerrilla leader, return to the Palestinian-ruled areas, Palestinian and Israeli officials said. He is to attend a meeting of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile to remove clauses from the 1964 PLO charter calling for Israel's destruction. (Reuters)

Britons stockpile petrol and water

Beirut: British expatriates in Lebanon yesterday stockpiled food, petrol, and water, and ordered their children to stay indoors (Michael Theodoulou writes).

"We've learnt not to go out unless it's absolutely necessary. Water is the most important thing, and having cans of food in the house," said Phillipa Mishlawi, originally from Surrey, who has lived in Beirut since 1976, and was evacuated twice during the 15-year civil war. "We have a system of phoning each other to check up. The newer arrivals are pretty nervous."

Meanwhile, a team of British archaeologists cancelled work in central Beirut after being pinned down on site by Israeli air raids on Sunday. Catherine Cavanagh, 25, said: "It's ridiculous of the Israelis to attack Beirut. It's so inflammatory. They don't seem to care about peace with Syria."

Most Britons in Lebanon are business people and developers involved in Beirut's ambitious reconstruction programmes. Some are now concerned that their contracts may be jeopardised by the instability.

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Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, with Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, during an official reception ceremony yesterday for the British visitor at Mr Peres's office in Jerusalem

Peres still needs goodwill of neighbouring powers

BY LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

COMMENTARY

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Prime Minister, knows that the security problem on his northern border will not be solved by force. He has no way of eliminating the Hezbollah threat, for this would require a complete military occupation of southern Lebanon well beyond Israeli political and military resources. Israel has tried to work with a Christian militia within a limited security zone on the Lebanese side, but this has not curtailed Hezbollah operations. Indeed, the Israeli patrols have provided them with more accessible targets. The targets for the airstrikes and artillery bombardment may have been chosen with great care, but they have failed to silence the Katyusha rocket batteries.

In practice, Israeli strategy is to coerce the Lebanese and Syrian Governments to restrain Hezbollah. Warnings to

Lebanese civilians to move north do help to reduce casualties but they also serve to create a refugee problem.

Mr Peres is gambling that the resultant crisis within Lebanon will lead to internal demands that Hezbollah be restrained. While the Lebanese Government may be correct in its claim that it lacks the clout to impose control, this is less true for its political overseer in Syria.

Mr Peres can have some confidence when it comes to implementing this strategy. President Assad of Syria is anxious to avoid direct hostilities, while whatever the doubts of Western governments they will avoid severe criticism, lest they undermine the Labour Government before next month's election.

They accept that Israel has been provoked, and that if Mr Peres had not acted he would have lost ground to the more hawkish Likud Party.

The February suicide bombings have undermined confidence within Israel in the policy of dealing with more moderate Arab regimes to get their co-operation in suppressing radical groups. Here Syria represents a substantial disappointment, given the overtures made by Israel. Israel has indicated a readiness to hand back the Golan Heights and to remove its forces from its Lebanese "security zone".

President Assad has seemed tempted to close on this bargain and has even begun to prepare his population for a deal. It is unclear whether his failure to reach an agreement

reflects the patience of a wily negotiator playing a long game or the paralysis of indecision.

The failure of inducements to bring peace does not mean that coercion will succeed. If, as Mr Peres has suggested, Iran is the promoter of the latest violence, can any strategy that does not hurt Tehran succeed? Moreover, restraints on Hezbollah may be short-lived. The "Party of God" shares with the Israeli Government a reluctance to allow its enemies the last word. Even if the current exchanges cease, there are alternative forms of retaliation. Israel cannot contain and isolate its enemies by itself. It still needs to find more positive ways of co-operating with those with a real interest in peace.

Lawrence Freedman is Professor of War Studies at King's College London

Tehran 'paid cash reward to agent'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR figure in the Hamas terrorist organisation has been receiving financial backing from a member of the Iranian Embassy in Damascus, the Syrian capital, according to intelligence sources.

Intense interest is being focused on the activities of Imad al-Alami, who is believed to have been given a cash bonus of about \$120,000

HAMAS

(£30,000) after the "success" of Hamas suicide bomb missions in Israel.

Since the attacks, Western intelligence services have been trying to trace the network of organisations, particularly in Europe, which have been financing Hamas. A number of charity groups in Britain known to be raising funds for Palestinian organisations are being closely monitored.

However, the main focus of the intelligence service has been on the Iranian connection and any Syrian involvement in Hamas. There are also known to be strong links between Hamas and Hezbollah. This connection may be one of the reasons for Israel's action in Lebanon.

Mr al-Alami, who is aged 39 and married, trained as an engineer and lived for some time in Egypt. He is known to travel regularly between Tehran and Damascus. He is believed to be living in Damascus, where Hamas has a "one-man office", according to intelligence sources.

Iran has denied any involvement in the Hamas bombings. However, Mr al-Alami is suspected of being one of the key links between Hamas and Tehran and makes regular visits to the Iranian Embassy.

One intelligence source said Syria exerted "a lot of influence" on Hamas, although it fears getting too involved because of the possible political repercussions.

Bomb warning disrupts Tutu hearings

East London: South Africans were given notice yesterday of the painful process they face in confronting their troubled past when the opening hearing of the controversial Truth and Reconciliation Commission investigating crimes committed under apartheid was delayed by bomb scares (Inigo Gilmore writes).

Proceedings in this Eastern Cape city's Victorian city hall were briefly held up

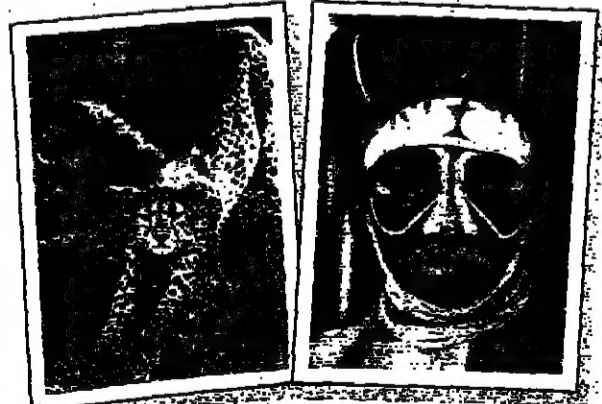
after police and a newspaper received calls from a man claiming that bombs had been planted on the premises.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission's chairman, interrupted the testimony of the widow of a murdered activist to order the evacuation of the hall while police with sniffer dogs searched the premises. He said solemnly: "It makes all of us aware that there are some people

who will stop at nothing to stop the commission from carrying out its work." The call, however, proved to be a hoax.

Earlier Archbishop Tutu welcomed the first seven witnesses, six black women who lost loved ones in police custody or at the hands of security forces or who had disappeared without trace. The seventh witness is a white man who lost an arm in a bomb attack by black extremists.

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Fifteen die as soldier runs amok

Jakarta: An Indonesian army officer ran amok at a remote airport, shooting dead 15 people, including at least ten soldiers and a New Zealander. Local sources said the officer was suffering from depression after an aircraft carrying the bodies of two soldiers believed hacked to death by jungle rebels at the weekend made a refuelling stop. (Reuters)

Liberia barrage

Monrovia: Heavy arms fire resumed against a military base where gunmen loyal to Roosevelt Johnson, the Liberian warlord, have taken shelter with hundreds of "human shield" hostages. (AFP)

Burundi crisis

Bujumbura: Worsening violence in Burundi has forced almost 100,000 destitute people to flee their homes in the past two months, said Patrick Berner, the Red Cross representative. (AFP)

Californian pardoned 28 years late

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

TWENTY-EIGHT years after his death, a man convicted of "perhaps the most atrocious crime ever committed in the state of California" has been pardoned by Pete Wilson, the Governor, after revelations of brutal intimidation and Prohibition-era corruption.

The long and shameful story of Jack Ryan vs the People of California began with his arrest in October 1925 for the murders of Henry Sweet and Carmen Wagner, two young hunters shot at close range north of San Francisco.

It ended yesterday with a posthumous pardon from Mr Wilson, who condemned the violent abuse of an innocent man as something "no civilised society should tolerate".

Ryan, 23, and half-Hupa Indian, was hunted down and almost lynched. He was acquitted after it emerged that he had been framed.

In 1927, Stephen Earl Metzler decided to run for district attorney on a simple platform: solve the crime in two years or resign.

Metzler's only suspect was Ryan, who could not be retried. Instead, the district attorney bludgeoned a terrified confession out of him.

Ryan's half-brother was strangled with barbed wire. Letters reached him threatening a similar fate if he did not confess. Eventually, a woman was paid \$100 to swear that Ryan had raped her daughter.

At his second trial, he confessed to the murders.

Ryan served 25 years in prison, was paroled at the age of 50 for model behaviour and died in 1978. Metzler was convicted for bootlegging.

Arkansas storm

Sylamore: Seven people were killed and 30 injured when a tornado ripped roofs off houses, uprooted trees and destroyed a tourist campsite at this town 80 miles north of Little Rock, Arkansas. (AP)

Budapest: American troops with Nam in Hungary have been asked for help by Budapest Zoo - to use their large military aircraft to transfer three young Zambian giraffes from Frankfurt. (Reuters)

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Midwest 'revolutionary' awaits Dole call to arms

THE cheery and rotund John Engler arrived in his office at 9am in jeans, a blue-and-orange Detroit Tigers' wind-cheater and matching baseball cap. He certainly did not look like America's hottest Republican Governor, or the man widely tipped to be Bob Dole's running-mate, but he is both. He was, he explained, throwing the first pitch at the Tigers' season opener that afternoon.

The 47-year-old leader of Michigan is visiting Britain this month, but the questioning inevitably turned to his vice-presidential prospects, and he parried with all the mandatory disavowals. The job would be hard to refuse, he conceded, but he did not expect to be offered it. He had no plans to leave Michigan. He still believed Mr Dole would persuade Colin Powell to join his ticket because "when Bob Dole sets out to accomplish something, he does it".

Mr Engler was being distinguished, of course. He would not only love the job, but has a powerful claim to it. He runs a key state in November's principal battleground — the industrial Midwest. He is a Roman Catholic, and Catholics are a crucial constituency. Above all, he has transformed Michigan the way Republicans dream of transforming America and is a walking advertisement for Mr Dole's platform of devolving power to the states.

"Michigan is driving America's renaissance," boasted the Governor whom Newt Gingrich calls America's "leading revolutionary" and uses to inspire his battered troops in Congress. *New Yorker* magazine calls him "the epitome of Republican devotion chic".

The son of a Michigan cattle farmer, he joined the state legislature at 22, after deciding to implement an election plan he had devised merely as a college exercise. He rose through the ranks, and in 1990 narrowly defeated the incumbent Democrat Governor. He swiftly launched a drastic programme to revive a state burdened with dying industries, big unions, heavy taxes

The Governor being tipped as Bob Dole's running-mate tells Martin Fletcher how he has revived the fortunes of a state that was burdened with dying industries

and welfare liberalism. He slashed spending, shrank the bureaucracy and privatised services. He ended welfare for 83,000 able-bodied adults without children, and ordered welfare recipients with families to do 20 hours' productive labour weekly or suffer benefit reductions. He introduced competition to Michigan's monopolistic education system by letting parents, churches or other groups open publicly funded "charter schools".

He faced furious opposition. Protesters erected an "Englerville" shantytown in front of the state capitol. Democrats and the press called him heartless and his popularity rating sank to 19 per cent. But he forged on and began cutting taxes as the economy strengthened.

In 1994, with the campaign slogan "Tough enough to bring Michigan back", he increased his 17,000 majority to 700,000 — the second biggest in the state's history.



John Engler, the Governor of Michigan and "the epitome of Republican devotion chic"

Days later his wife Michelle, a Texas lawyer 11 years his junior, gave birth to triplets.

Mr Engler admits a resurgent national economy helped his re-election but argues that Michigan has outperformed almost every other state. He has turned its \$1.8 billion (£1.15 billion) deficit into a \$1 billion surplus and cut its welfare caseload to its lowest level in 23 years with no obvious jump in social problems. Unemployment has reached a 26-year low of 4.8 per cent, and Michigan last year created a fifth of new manufacturing jobs in the US.

Mr Engler is visiting London primarily to encourage investment in a state transformed, he says, from "the broken buckle of the Rust Belt" to the turbo-charged engine powering the high-performance heartland. He will meet Baroness Thatcher, whom he acknowledges as a role model, Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and

various Conservative party officials. Critics claim he is also coming to bolster his international credentials.

Mr Engler is certainly an astute self-promoter. Known in some quarters as "Engler the Angler", he is also visiting Canada and Germany this month. He appears frequently in Washington, on chairshows and at Republican gatherings around the country. His office pumps out lists of his achievements, and his irresistible triplets are not exactly shielded from the cameras.

This self-promotion could backfire and Mr Engler has other drawbacks as a running-mate. He is solid, not charismatic. He is a divorcee like Mr Dole — and Republicans are supposed to champion family values. He escaped service in Vietnam through overweight, making it hard for Mr Dole — a war hero — to exploit Mr Clinton's Vietnam draft avoidance.

That afternoon, Mr Engler's pitch before 40,000 spectators in Detroit reached the plate. Whether his pitch for a place on the Dole ticket is equally successful remains to be seen, but he has some powerful backers. Mr Gingrich supports him. So too do Religious Right leaders — including the Christian Coalition's Ralph Reed — who are determined to keep General Powell off the ticket and like Mr Engler's strong opposition to abortion. These people gave Mr Dole priceless support in the primaries and he owes them.

□ Inquiry "excesses": Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel on Whitewater, was reported yesterday to have questioned witnesses about extra-marital affairs Bill Clinton may have had before becoming President (Tom Rhodes writes).

In an article in the *New Yorker*, Whitewater investigators were said also to have subpoenaed the 16-year-old son of one of their targets at his high school. No details were given but the magazine said it was one of several accounts about perceived excesses and questioned Mr Starr's impartiality, as a Republican, over Whitewater.



Jemima Khan at Gatwick Airport before her departure for Lahore yesterday

Imran rejects Bhutto aid offer

By ZAHID HUSSAIN IN LAHORE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JEMIMA KHAN returned to Pakistan yesterday from Britain to be with her husband, Imran, after the bombing of his charity cancer hospital on Sunday which left six people dead and 25 wounded.

The 11b bomb devastated the outpatients department of the Shaikat Khanum Memo-

rial Cancer Hospital, named after the former cricket star's mother, who died of cancer. But neither the devastation nor security fears deterred doctors and nurses from returning to work yesterday; they set up a makeshift ward to attend to patients.

Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, described the bombing as part of a plot to destabilise her Government. Mr Khan said he would not

allow such intimidatory bombing tactics to shatter his dream. An aspiring politician who is preparing to launch a political reform movement, he rejected Ms Bhutto's offer of help to rebuild the hospital, saying that her administration had done everything to destroy it.

He said he was even more determined to launch his movement against what he called a corrupt government.

Low-caste Indians give glory to Bandit Queen

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LUCKNOW

PHOOLAN DEVI, the Bandit Queen, is stirring up caste conflicts and awakening old blood feuds in India's explosive Hindi heartland in her attempt to win election to parliament this month.

"I looted those who looted me," she tells cheering Untouchables and low-castes. "I am with you. I am one of you." They adore her.

Ms Devi, who is said to have slaughtered 22 high-caste Thakurs a decade ago after being gang-raped, is trying to exploit the breakdown of caste conventions that have defined Indian culture for 5,000 years. Low-castes in the teeming northern plains, no longer compliant to their caste superiors, will determine the outcome of India's general election by the unaccustomed exercise of their free will.

Northern India is following the south in rejecting high-caste and Brahminical power, which traditionally dominate politics, bureaucracy, the armed forces, the judiciary, academia and the media. The governing Congress Party, led by P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Brahmin Prime Minister, is resigned to being crushed in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the huge northern states with nearly a quarter of seats in the Lok Sabha (lower House).

The old Congress Party formula is dead: Muslims, Brahmins and Untouchables united behind it for nearly half a century, but they are all scattering. Ms Devi is a product of the process. She is both revered and hated in the crowded towns and villages across the northern plains, symbolising the polarisation of caste and the potential for social revolution, which India has never had.

The Thakurs have sent a "widows' chariot" to Mirzapur, where Ms Devi is a candidate, to draw attention to her infamous deeds in the Chambal ravines, which her gang used as a hideaway. "Mirzapur could turn into Chambal," she tells "the crowds, implying that violent retribution is at hand. She is not serious, but it plays well."

The widows' chariot carries 22 women who will tell their side of the Devi story in the backwaters of Mirzapur, where most of India's hand-knotted carpets are produced by low-caste workers in dark, unventilated mud huts. Many of the weavers are Untouchable children, some of them bonded labourers sold to loom owners by their parents.

It is rumoured that loom owners have helped to finance Ms Devi's campaign to ensure that she does not draw attention to their rackets. Some of the hard-looking men who accompany her are said to be henchmen of a notorious carpet boss who uses money and muscle to circumvent child labour laws.

US agrees base cuts in Japan

By ROBERT WHYMANT

JAPAN and America yesterday agreed on a 20 per cent reduction in US military bases in Okinawa. The move is intended to mollify opponents of the intrusive American military presence on the island.

The plan to close five major bases and scale down several others was announced by William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, and Yukihiko Ikeda, the Japanese Foreign Minister, after a meeting to smooth the way for tomorrow's Japanese-US summit. President Clinton is due to arrive in Tokyo today for a state visit, during which he will discuss with Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, the strengthening of the two countries' security relationship.

A special action committee has been looking at ways to reduce and consolidate US bases, which are concentrated on the southern island. Feelings have been running high since the rape of a girl, 12, last September by three American servicemen.

The committee's interim report released yesterday recommends the closure of the Futatabi Marine Corps Air Station and the Isobe Navy Communication Centre, both the focus of angry protests.

China bans press from orphanages

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

CHINA, in retaliation for Western reports on lethal conditions in state orphanages, has banned foreign reporters from visiting orphanages, prisons, old people's homes, and mental hospitals.

According to a report in the *Sing Tao Daily News*, a Hong Kong newspaper, an official circular stated that only mainland and sympathetic Hong Kong reporters could report on such institutions — after indicating to local propaganda departments that the reports "will have a positive angle".

The Peking authorities expressed outrage in January when a Channel 4 film,

Return to the Dying Rooms, and a report from the American-based Human Rights Watch/Asia, claimed that more than half of the infants in China's orphanages were allowed to die because most of them were female and, as such, were regarded as of little value.

The film used secretly taken footage in a number of orphanages and included an interview with a doctor who was a source for the Human Rights Watch report.

Peking condemned the film as false, the doctor a liar, and the statistics as invented.

Early this month, the State

Council issued a 15,000-word White Paper praising China's childcare and characterising the allegations as fabrications. It admitted that because of national poverty some institutions could not supply the best care, but emphasised that "China has made gigantic efforts in the survival, protection, and development of 300 million children aged below 16".

The death rate among children was falling rapidly, the White Paper said. But the Human Rights Watch report alleged that in China's best-funded orphanage, in Shanghai, the death rate was far higher than in

some much poorer institutions. Peking has not refuted this aspect of the report.

Foreign donors to some orphanages reported that, because of the film and the report, China was restricting foreign charitable work in orphanages.

One representative of a major charity — who had publicly deplored the film and the report as biased and unhelpful — admitted privately that he had long known of the excessive deaths. He said: "You can imagine how I felt. Every time I went out there with a cheque, I knew that I was shaking hands with killers."

America on alert for terror anniversary

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA enters a state of alert this week with the first anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, the terrorist act that left 168 dead and hundreds injured.

The combination of Oklahoma and the siege at Waco exactly two years before has left security services only too aware of the significance of this Friday, April 19. In Ohio, police chiefs and sheriffs have been told to "exercise all due caution" because terrorists placed much emphasis on the anniversary of Waco.

The Cook County Sheriff's

office in Chicago is employing its dog unit to search all criminal and civil court buildings that day. In Nebraska, extra officers will patrol government buildings and in Oklahoma itself many of those living near the site that once housed the devastated federal building have said they will be out of town.

Law enforcement agencies are openly acknowledging the various procedures they are taking to avoid any possible recurrence of the bombing. Security will be increased at federal buildings.

Japan finds something fishy in Prince's Bangkok research

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE refusal of a Japanese prince to attend tomorrow's banquet at the Imperial Palace for President and Hillary Clinton has prompted an unprecedented magazine article hinting at an extra-marital romance. Prince Akishino, 30, younger son of Emperor Akihito, is due to fly to Bangkok tomorrow, ostensibly to study catfish, his field of expertise. His wife, Princess Kiko, will attend the banquet hosted by the Emperor and his consort. The event will also be attended by Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife, Princess Masako.

Japanese citizens were surprised to learn that Prince Akishino, second in line to the throne, is to be away on the day the Clintons come to dinner. But alone among the media, *Shukan Shincho*, a widely read magazine, comments this week on his odd priorities. Even more remarkable is that the magazine hints that his reason for visiting Thailand is not limited to ichthyology.

Breaking a taboo against negative coverage of the Japanese monarchy, it reports what it artfully calls a "wild rumour" — that his real mission is to hold discussions with a young Thai woman, also a catfish researcher. The article quotes an unnamed

business executive, who is close to Emperor Akihito, as saying that the Prince's trip to Thailand — his third in six months — is "deplorable" and ignores the feelings of the monarch. The woman has been only identified as the daughter of a well-to-do family. She works in Thailand's Institute for Catfish Research.

To Britons, satiated with tabloid exposés of their royalty's sexual antics, this may not appear as an earth-shattering revelation. In Japan, however, where reporting of royal scandals is unthinkable, the article has provoked astonishment. It is also being seen as a milestone in press freedom. "This is certainly

unusual," said Hideaki Kase, an author and expert on the monarchy. "I wonder if it is a harbinger of freer coverage of the palace."

The style of the story has undertones of *Private Eye*. The article states cautiously: "The repeated visits to Thailand may be due to the close relationship between the Imperial Family and the Thai Royal Family, and the Prince's enthusiasm for catfish study. But his solo journey at this time, sacrificing his official duties, appears to have cause for conjecture among people close to His Highness, such as that he may be going to Thailand to meet a Thai woman he has known from before

his marriage. Yet free spirit though His Highness is, such talk about a 'romance' is hard to believe."

The Imperial Household Agency, the palace bureaucracy, has refused to comment. But a palace source said the behaviour of the Prince, married six years, is "causing a problem".

It is widely accepted that *Shukan Shincho*, a middlebrow publication with 600,000 readers, would not dare run the story if it were not based on fact. Mr Kase said: "Let us hope members of our Imperial Family are not following the example of your British royals."



Leading article, page 17

Akishino: hint of an affair

The last thing we want you to do is buy our products.

Building industry set to lose 20,000 jobs

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S construction industry is preparing to lose 20,000 jobs this year, its leaders said yesterday, adding that the sector still remained "seriously depressed".

Though some evidence was slightly more optimistic, the building industry's main representative body said there were no real signs of any sustained recovery in prospect for the sector.

The Building Employers' Confederation gave warning that the industry is likely to lose a further 20,000 jobs this year as construction companies continue to shed labour, taking the total number of building jobs lost over the past six years to more than half a million. The Building Employers' Confederation said it expected building output to fall 1 per cent this year.

Wales, the Midlands, London and the South West

are expected to be the regions worst affected by job losses, while the North, North West, Yorkshire and the South expect employment to increase in the next quarter, according to the confederation's survey of a sample of 600 firms.

Paul Shepherd, BEC chairman, said the construction industry remained in a "seriously depressed" state. Underlying construction demand remained weak and there were no real signs of sustained recovery in prospect.

Mr Shepherd said: "I would have expected that by now the improvement shown in government new orders statistics would be reflected in more optimism among our members about future trading prospects, but this is simply not happening."

Output deteriorated in every sector of the industry and the total number of new inquiries declined for the fourth successive quarter.

But a separate survey said there were signs of "green shoots" of recovery this year, especially in the private sector. The Building Material Producers' Association said the private sector should provide additional workloads for construction companies during the next three years.

Anthony Hopkins, chairman of the Building Material Producers' forecasting panel and managing director of Tarmac's building division, said: "Confidence is just showing signs of beginning to come back in the housing market."

Continued downward trends in mortgage interest rates, a slight escalation in house prices and reductions in the number of people in negative equity are all good news. We would like the Government to foster the green shoots that we can now see."



David Michels, chief executive, has seen Stakis recover when the chips were down

Improving hotels lead the way for Stakis

By Paul Durman

STAKIS, the hotel and casino group, yesterday reported good progress on all fronts in its hotels arm.

Occupancy rates, average room rates and the yield per available room all showed positive increases in quarterly figures to the end of March.

The results from the Stakis casinos were more mixed, with the average spend falling from £135 to £132 and customer's winnings rising marginally. However, casino attendances were up from 473,000 to 531,000, while the amount of money converted into gambling chips rose from £64 million to £70 million.

Neil Chiselman, finance director, suggested the National Lottery may be partly to blame for the reduced spend. Stakis, which has recovered strongly under David Michels, chief executive, also benefited from the rise in room rates that followed its acquisition of more hotels. It has more than 4,900 rooms, compared to 4,503 a year ago.

Mr Chiselman said the improvements came partly from better marketing and partly from "knowing better when the hotel is going to be full, and, therefore, knowing when to hold out for the full rate".

He also said that Stakis was not talking to Granada about buying any of the unwanted hotels it acquired when it recently took over the Forte hotels group. Stakis would be most interested in the four-star hotels that Granada wishes to retain.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Economies of West Europe disappoint

WEST EUROPEAN economies have seen a marked deterioration since early 1995 and forecasts have been revised downwards significantly, according to a United Nations Economic Commission for Europe report. It expressed disappointment that the slowdown in western Europe had come before the current upswing had had enough time to have much impact on persistently high levels of unemployment.

In contrast, eastern Europe showed 1995 real gross domestic product up over 5 per cent, with a bigger rise expected this year. A deep depression in output in Russia continued, but Armenia and Georgia actually saw an increase.

Profits fall at Britannia

BRITANNIA GROUP, the housebuilding and construction company based in Cheltenham, is holding the total dividend at 1.5p a share after suffering a fall in pre-tax profits to £713,000 in 1995 from £1.66 million in 1994. Earnings fell to 3.1p a share from 5.3p. There is a final dividend of 1.1p. The shares fell 1p to 25p. The company said it continued to trade "in extremely difficult markets". Turnover improved to £48.97 million from £46.4 million.

Threat to KCPL merger

WESTERN RESOURCES offered to buy Kansas City Power and Light in a \$1.7 billion deal aimed at breaking up a friendly merger proposed between KCPL and Utilicorp United. John Hayes, Western chairman, said the move would save more than \$1 billion during the first 10 years, or 64 per cent more than in a proposed KCPL merger with Utilicorp. Western has asked for a response by April 22, one month before shareholders vote on the Utilicorp-KCPL deal.

DTI bides time on leak

THE Department of Trade and Industry yesterday held off immediate action to obtain an injunction against *The Economist* over the magazine's possession of a Memorandum and Mergers Commission report on takeovers in the electricity industry. The DTI, which had demanded the return of the leaked report by 3pm yesterday, said it was "considering its position" after *The Economist* refused to hand over the report.

Automated Security slip

AUTOMATED SECURITY HOLDINGS, the debt-laden, burglar alarms and security company, slipped back into losses of £1.3 million (£800,000 profit) during the first quarter to February 29. Gains in turnover and operating profit were wiped out by a 33 per cent fall in continuing operations and loss of contribution from discontinued businesses. A £1 million interest charge on debts also helped to take losses per share to 1.9p (nil).

PIA calls for changes

THE Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for firms selling direct to the public, yesterday published a consultative paper proposing changes to the way in which friendly societies are regulated. Among the PIA's recommendations are a doubling of the earnings limit to £1,000, below which advisers do not need to supply references or be subject to the tougher training and competence standards; and exemption from factfinds and reason-why letters at very low premium levels.

Coats Viyella to cut 2,700 jobs

By Sarah Bagnall

COATS VIYELLA, the huge textiles group, is cutting 2,700 jobs in the UK and India as part of a £50 million restructuring programme. Further job losses elsewhere in the world are expected to be announced later in the year.

Last month the company revealed it was planning job

cuts and a switch in production from western Europe and North America to low-cost countries such as eastern Europe and Asia as part of a restructuring programme of its clothing, thread and home furnishing divisions.

Coats, which employs more than 75,000 people worldwide,

is cutting its workforce in the UK by 1,300 to 26,700. The company has informed about half the staff involved, the bulk of whom work in the group's clothing division.

In March, Coats revealed a sharp fall in operating profits at its UK clothing operation from £30.9 million to £20.5 million in the year to December 31. Overall, the group recorded a 6.4 per cent fall in underlying pre-tax profits to £142.6 million.

A further 1,400 jobs are to go

at the group's Indian operations, where Coats employs 14,000. Last month Neville Bain, chief executive, signalled the possibility of redundancies in the area, where Coats has thread, clothing and textiles operations.

The group intends to reduce the amount of its clothing manufactured in the UK from about 80 per cent to nearer 60 per cent by the end of the decade. The move is a reflection of a general trend in the industry.

BRISTOL & WEST



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR MEMBERS OF BRISTOL & WEST

As you may already know, the Board of the Bristol & West Building Society yesterday announced that it intends to recommend to Members that Bristol & West should become part of Bank of Ireland Group.

Customers of Bristol & West are being sent a Notice explaining the reasons for this decision together with a leaflet, *Answers to Your Questions*.

A free Information Line has been set up on 0800 886633. Lines will be open from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm Monday to Friday and 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays.

Full details about the transaction will be circulated in due course in a Transfer Document for consideration at a Special General Meeting of the Society when eligible Members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposal.

Members should note, however, that no decisions are to be taken on this matter at the Society's Annual General Meeting on 19 April 1996.

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of this Society will be held at St Andrews Hall, St Andrews Plain, Norwich at 12 noon on the 10th May 1996 for the transaction of the following business:

Ordinary Business

To receive and consider the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 1995 and the reports of the Directors and Auditors. To elect Directors in place of those retiring by rotation. To elect Michael Biggs, Sir Michael Partridge, Alan Pearnman and John Stanforth, as Directors, particulars of whom are available on request from the Secretary of the Society. To re-appoint Ernst & Young as Auditors of the Society and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Special Business

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions:

Ordinary Resolution
1. That pursuant to Article 43 of the Articles of Association of the Society, the maximum aggregate remuneration of the directors for their services as such shall be £350,000 per annum.

Special Resolution
2. That the Articles of Association of the Society be altered in the following ways:

(a) By substituting for the existing wording of Article 79(1) and Article 79(2) a new Article 79(1) in the following form:
"Any notice to be given by the Society to its members, including any notice of a General Meeting, may be given, at the option of the Directors, in any of the following ways:

(i) by advertisement in accordance with Article 80; or
(ii) by post in accordance with Article 81; or
(c) by serving it personally."

(b) By inserting a new Article 79(2) as follows:
"The proceedings at any meeting shall not be invalidated by virtue of the non-receipt of a notice of meeting or instrument of proxy by any person entitled to receive one, or by virtue of the accidental omission to send either of these documents to such a person."

(c) By renumbering Article 1 as Article 1(a) and including as a new Article 1(b) the following wording:

"(1) The Directors may at any time determine to close membership of

the Society if they are giving consideration to demutualisation, which for the purposes of this Article shall mean the transfer of all or substantially all of the Society's business to, or the re-registration of the Society as, a company limited by shares.

(2) In any case where the Directors have so determined, the Society shall give notice ("a Notice of Closure") in accordance with the provisions of Article 79. Such closure shall take effect from (and including) the date specified in the Notice of Closure ("a Closure Date") which shall not be earlier than the date on which the notice is given. Subject to the succeeding paragraphs of this Article, neither the grant of a policy of insurance on or after the Closure Date nor any other act or event whatsoever occurring on or after the Closure Date shall entitle any person to be a member of the Society.

(3) The Directors shall be entitled after the giving of a Notice of Closure to admit to membership any person who but for the Notice of Closure would have been entitled to be a member.

(4) The Directors may at any time revoke a Notice of Closure. The Society shall give notice of such revocation in accordance with Article 79. Upon the giving of such notice, any person who would have been entitled to be a member at that time but for the Notice of Closure shall be entitled to be admitted to membership.

(5) The decision of the Directors in relation to each exercise of any of their powers under this Article, or as to whether circumstances exist in relation to which such powers may be exercised, shall be final and binding on the Society; every member and every other person concerned.

(6) The provisions of this Article shall apply notwithstanding any of the other provisions of these Articles (whether express or implied).

(d) By inserting the words "Subject to Article 1(b)" at the beginning of the definition of "member" in Article 1(a).

By order of the Board
Graham Jones Secretary
Surrey Street Norwich NR1 3NG
16 April 1996

Notes

1. Members may find the following explanatory information of assistance:

(a) Ordinary Resolutions

i. The named Directors are those who have been appointed by the Board in the 1995/1996 year and are therefore obliged to offer themselves for re-election at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

ii. The aggregate limit on Directors' fees for their services as Directors is currently £270,000. Since that limit was agreed the size of the Board has increased and this, together with modest increases in non-executive Directors' remuneration, has made it necessary to review the limit.

(b) Special Resolution

i. Alteration of Article 79. Notices The Articles currently provide that notice of every general meeting must be given by advertisement in a London and a local newspaper. The amendment proposed adds the flexibility of notice being given to members

by post or personally. In case the Society wishes to take advantage of its new power to give notice of meeting by post, a further amendment is proposed to ensure that non-receipt of a notice or proxy form by a member, even in the case of accidental failure to post such a document, will not invalidate the meeting. This type of provision is standard practice.

ii. Incorporation of new Article 1(b): Membership

The Directors announced on 13 October 1995 that they were considering the demutualisation and flotation of Norwich Union and stated that it would be well into 1996 before a further statement could be made. This remains the case. However, the Directors are concerned to ensure that they have the flexibility to introduce a cut-off date for membership of the Society in the event that there is need to do so. This is to protect the interests of current members. The Directors may only exercise this power in the context of demutualisation and not in any other circumstance.

The amendment is regarded purely as prudent contingency planning. It does not imply that the Directors have taken any decision on the merits or otherwise of demutualisation. If they do decide to recommend a demutualisation scheme to the members, a general meeting will be convened at which members will be invited to vote on the issue.

2. Members who wish to attend the meeting or require any further information including a form of proxy should they wish to revalue one are invited to make a written request to: The Secretary's Department, The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, Surrey Street, Norwich, NR1 3NG, to telephone: 0645 444818

Members are asked to quote the number of one of their life and pensions policies with The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society when applying.

Movie duo agree £6m studio deal

By Eric Ridd

RIDLEY and Scott, the directors of the hit movie *Braveheart*, have agreed a £6m deal to produce a new studio in London.

The studio, which will be based in the Docklands area of London, is expected to start work in the summer of 1996.

The studio will be owned by Ridley and Scott, and will be used to produce a range of films, including a new production of *Braveheart*.

The new company will be a subsidiary of the main business of Ridley and Scott.

Merger with SN

Merrill boo

By Richard

NEW YORK: Merrill Lynch's bid to acquire the investment bank's main business unit, the investment management division, has been rejected by the board of directors.

□ Learning from the mistakes of others □ Two-tier supervision by Imro □ A question of Swiss timing

Bristol ship-shaped at last

□ THE accident-prone Bristol & West, which once seemed to make every mistake going as a building society, has at last learnt from the mistakes of others. It may even manage to be taken over and give its million members a bonus of up to £1,000 without upsetting anyone. But, then again, society members will probably discover a way to find fault with the sale of the ninth largest society to the Irish Republic's oldest bank.

Giving away the assets of a society to its owners, the members, is more difficult than it might at first seem. Savers continue to withdraw a pound too much on the day before the qualifying date for the bonus, or swap from one account to another. Even worse, the first named customer may die, leaving the account bereft of a bonus in spite of years of joint loyal membership.

At one time, B&W was rumoured to be a rescue candidate. It went on to make industry history by giving the largest payoff to its former chief executive for a brief and disastrous tenure, while continuing to pay him as a consultant. It bought into exclusive estate agents at the top of the market

and sold out only weeks ago, just as the housing market was eventually showing signs of life.

Its bad debts were bad and in an ill-judged attempt to get some of its repossessed properties off its books, it joined forces with a housing association to sell the properties to house the homeless. Not the ones that it had evicted, of course. It was a great tax wheeze for the rich, who could put in £40,000 and get tax-free income and profits, if there were any. National & Provincial, soon to become part of Abbey National, joined B&W in the scheme, but no other lenders latched the opprobrium attached.

But B&W, at that time seemed almost to revel in bad publicity. Any publicity seemed to be better than none, appeared to be its motto. Under the careful hand of John Burke, its current chief executive, that has changed. He is less flamboyant than his predecessor, but he needed to be if the society was to win any willing suitors rather than a

distress merger. He has safeguarded the payout for members and the future of its branches.

And to try to win over all members, savers have until the end of this year to top up their accounts to the qualifying £100 and then receive a bonus of at least £500 next summer. Those who do not manage to do this will have only themselves to blame.

It still has more than a year before the money is in the pockets of its members and it is part of the Bank of Ireland. Things can go wrong far faster than that, as this particular society knows to its cost.

A lighter touch from watchdog

□ IF CITY watchdogs have learnt one thing it is that no run of good fortune lasts forever. Imro, however, has been enjoying a fair run since it fought back from almost losing its parish

PENNINGTON



altogether after the Robert Maxwell affair in which the £440 million pensions black hole was discovered in a company regulated by none other than the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation. It is now daring to demonstrate its grip of the companies that provide the pensions and safeguard the investments. In a bold move yesterday, it floated the idea of a two-tier level of supervision. While this is also being considered by the Personal Investment Authority, Imro has taken it further, and announced a trial scheme for some 50 companies

that might be subject to a lighter touch on the regulatory reins.

That will no doubt be welcome to many groups that constantly grumble that the costs of complying with all the rules have to be passed on to investors and that such tight policing distracts management time away from the important task of running a business.

Of course, the secret and indeed the strength of Imro will be if it can find 50 firms that are beyond reproach and remain so. Companies that are not inspected as often or as thoroughly as they should be because they appear to be beyond reproach have a habit of going astray. Note Barings, regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority and the Bank of England.

Investors in firms under a lighter Imro regime should also benefit. The regulator is asking that the firms should do far more to inform investors so that they can make the right choices. If the regulated firms fail to live up to

their promises, or they break the rules while benefiting from the more adult approach to regulation, heavy fines and the subsequent publicity will not suffice. Expulsion from the industry is the only effective sanction and Imro may not survive either.

An open secret

□ CS HOLDING might well have bitten off more than it can chew when it rather rudely forced Union Bank of Switzerland to consider the idea of a merger.

Giving all public appearance of seriously considering the matter, the UBS board duly took two hours to think it over. Fifteen minutes after its meeting last week the board issued a well-written, well-thought out statement explaining that it had rejected the merger proposal and suggesting that such a get-together with CS Holding was a

preposterous idea. Three days later Nikolaus Senn, chairman of UBS, warmed to his theme, saying that actually a merger of two of the three big Swiss banks sometime in the future was not such a crazy notion. The big problem with the CS Holding approach was that it came from CS Holding.

A far better option for UBS, he said, would be a merger with the smallest of the big three banks, Swiss Bank Corporation. This would create fewer political problems, as there would be less overlap of branches in Switzerland, and the management culture of the two was closer than that of UBS and CS Holding. SBC had nothing to say on the subject. If its thoughts on the subject can be imagined, the bank is feeling somewhat hard done by as the rather un-Swiss public airing being given to the banking industry's problems. There is also the problem of the investment banking businesses where there would be massive overlap.

Dr Senn's decision to go public over his preference highlights the need for dramatic cutbacks in the over-banked Swiss domestic markets. The big question is over timing. Nothing is likely to happen in the short-term.

Hardy selling oil and gas reserves for \$179m to Enron

By CARL MORTISHED

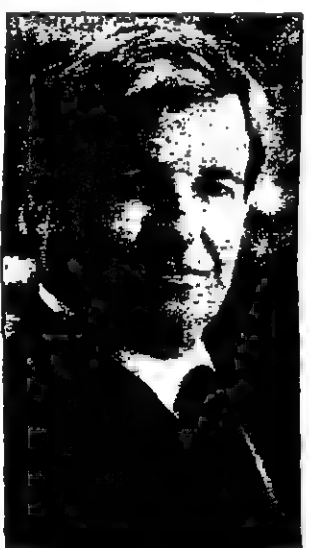
HARDY OIL & GAS is selling its exploration and production interests in the Gulf of Mexico for \$179 million to Enron, the US energy company. The deal will substantially eliminate Hardy's net borrowings but the company is already in negotiations to expand its energy and exploration business in new areas.

Enron Capital & Trade Resources, a subsidiary of Enron, is paying \$179 million for Hardy USA, which owns 21.7 million barrels of proven oil and gas reserves and a further 6.8 million barrels of probable reserves.

Hardy's share price rose 12p yesterday on news of the deal, which gave a per barrel value of the oil reserves sold at \$7.37 for each proven barrel and \$5.76 per proven and probable barrel. John Walmsley, the chief executive of Hardy, said the US interests were more mature than the rest of the portfolio and that resources needed to be redeployed elsewhere and indicated there were new investments under negotiation. He predicted that Hardy "will probably be add-

ing two new areas within the next few months".

The purchase price reflects the receipt of \$8 million from the prior sale to a third party of certain of Hardy's US interests totalling 2.6 million barrels. Hardy will also retain an option to acquire a quarter share in certain Gulf of Mexi-



Walmsley: new areas

co exploration prospects alongside Enron. The option will last for three years.

The sale will offset Hardy's borrowings, including loan notes totalling \$142 million issued by Hardy USA. Taxation and costs relating to the deal will result in a write-down of £7.7 million.

The proceeds will be used to support Hardy's other projects, including the Elgin and Franklin fields in the North Sea and development of the Bayu field, north of Australia. Hardy is liable for £130 million of the Elgin/Franklin development costs.

The disposal of the US energy and exploration business is part of a slimming down of the company's areas of operation, which started last year after the arrival of Mr Walmsley as chief executive. The company sold its Canadian interests for £21 million and shed two North Sea fields, while the company is to withdraw from other interests in the Netherlands, Libya, Algeria and Namibia.

Times, page 28

Rebel yell at Union Bank

A REBEL Union Bank of Switzerland shareholder will today attempt to persuade other investors to join him in blocking the nomination of Robert Studer to succeed Nikolaus Senn as chairman (Patrick Tehan writes).

Martin Ebner's BK Vision investment fund is planning to oppose Mr Studer's nomination as part of a legal dispute with the bank over the board's plans to alter the share structure, removing the extra voting power of the registered shares. At this afternoon's

meeting at Zurich's Hallestadion, Dr Senn will also be expected to defend the board's decision to reject merger proposals from CS Holding after a board meeting last week and to explain his weekend comments that a merger with Swiss Bank Corporation would be preferable.

He is expected to say that the time is not yet right for a merger of any two of the big three Swiss banks, but that he does not rule out a link-up in the future. Pennington, this page

Payoff by CRA topped £1m

A HIGH-RANKING executive with CRA, the Australian mining group, was given nearly Aus\$3 million (£1.4 million) on his retirement last year, according to newly disclosed figures (Jon Ashworth writes). Mark Rayner, who held various senior posts in a 33-year career with the company, stepped down in April 1995.

Mr Rayner, 58, who earned Aus\$513,000 in salary and benefits in 1994, his last full year, was awarded Aus\$2.9 million on his retirement. He

was paid a further Aus\$334,000 in 1995, despite resigning just four months into the year.

Robert Wilson, chief executive of RTZ-CRA, was paid £671,000 last year, including a £192,000 bonus. Sir Derek Birkin, who retires as non-executive chairman this year, received £281,000, down from £445,000. Leon Davis, who has relocated from Melbourne to London as chief operating officer, received £475,000 in 1995. The figures exclude pension contributions.

Movie duo agree £6m studio deal

By ERIC REGULY

RIDLEY and Tony Scott, the directors whose films include *Blade Runner*, *Alien*, and *Top Gun*, agreed yesterday to build a £6 million post-production digital studio in partnership with The Mill, a post-production company in London.

The studio, known as the Mill Digital Film Company, will be built in the Soho area of London. It is scheduled to open early next year.

Pat Joseph, production director of The Mill, said that the studio would compete with California companies such as Digital Domain and Industrial Light and Magic.

The new company will specialise in digital effects for the feature film, television and new media markets.

Time Warner doubles loss

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

TIME WARNER, the entertainment and media conglomerate, has doubled its loss in the first quarter of this year in spite of increasing group revenues to a record \$4.5 billion.

Most of the company's main business areas showed a substantial rise in revenues and in earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation — a key measure used by analysts to judge the health of media companies. Earnings from the publishing, entertainments and cable network business rose 32 per cent to \$899 million from \$681 million a year ago.

The loss of \$93 million — largely the result of the group's massive debt burden — included a \$26 million extraordinary cost from the retirement of some convertible debt. In the same quarter a year ago, the net loss was \$47 million.

However, the results show

that the group is generating large amounts of cash which is what Wall Street worries about most with heavily indebted companies. Both Warner Brothers, the film studio, and HBO, the TV channel, continued a streak of strong growth with record revenue and earnings for the quarter.

The results are likely to strengthen the fragile position of Gerald Levin as chairman and chief executive. He has come under heavy fire for his handling of Time Warner, including a string of departures by senior executives who have received massive pay-offs to leave.

The group is still trying to win approval for its takeover of Turner Broadcasting, which owns the CNN TV news channel and is run by Ted Turner. The deal is expected to go through this year.

Merger with SNC brings record earnings

Merrill boosted by UK link

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

SMITH New Court, the broking firm bought by Merrill Lynch late last year, has helped to boost its new parent's results to record levels for the first three months of 1996, riding on the back of strong stock and corporate finance markets.

Merrill's first-quarter earnings were \$409 million, up 80 per cent compared with the same period a year ago, and 35 per cent above the final quarter of last year. The company said it had made record revenues in most of its main business areas including commission,

principal transactions and asset management.

The purchase of SNC, the UK broker, helped to increase revenue from international equities business to half of Merrill's total equity income, compared with 25 per cent in 1994. Total equity income at Merrill was double last year's total.

Michael Marks, the former SNC chairman, now deputy chairman of Merrill Lynch International, said the takeover by Merrill had given the merged equities business more muscle in UK markets and overseas. "We

are already doing deals we probably would not have been able to do if we had been independent, such as being the lead broker for Halifax Building Society's flotation. Having Merrill's large balance sheet behind us also gives us more muscle in the international markets."

Merrill's strong results echo those of other banks such as JP Morgan, which have benefited from strong equity markets and a takeover and flotation boom in the US. Net revenues for the bank rose 35 per cent to a record \$3.3 billion during the quarter.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

BAC hangs up its clubs

AFTER Orange, the fire sale continues at British Aerospace. It has now sold one of its more attractive investments — the opulent Wisley Golf Club in Surrey. Sir Rocco Forte's second home and the first golf club in England to be run as a syndicate.

The remaining stock has been bought for £3 million by Wisley Golf Club Pte, enabling its 596 shareholders to take complete control. In spite of a lengthy waiting list for the club, which costs £2,200-a-year plus an obligatory £33,000 share, it intends that only a further 57 memberships will be made available before this time next year. Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, is already a member, as are BAE chairman Bob Bauman and chief executive Dick Evans.



Robinson: Wisley member

CULLODEN, the last pitched battle on British soil, took place 250 years ago today, the same year that Church Adams Tatham, the solicitor, opened its London offices. To forecast interest rates for the next 250 years, the firm is hiring a clairvoyant for the Building Societies Association conference in Birmingham.

Golden boys

THE lure of London as a tax haven is proving too much for the *jeunes golden boys de la finance*. According to the magazine *Paris Match*, the only way that French banks are going to hold on to their best employees is by setting up operations overseas, *dans la City de Londres*.

Suckers

THOUSANDS of Australian investors recently responded to a classified newspaper advertisement, promising guaranteed returns of 85 per cent on the original investment. By return of post the investors received a booklet from the financial authorities, which had placed the advertisement, outlining the dangers of believing such outrageous claims.

Bone free

MARY-LORRAINE Hughes, one of the five finalists for the Verve Clio-quot Business Woman of the Year Award, is taking no chances with BSE. Ms Hughes, managing director of Portmeirion Pottery and a strict vegetarian, is boycotting traditional ingredients of bone china to develop an "animal-friendly" version. Portmeirion Pottery, as used by Princess Margaret, is plotting a mineral substitute for the cattle bone normally used in bone china.

Baby blues

IN SPITE of yesterday's advertisement for the £30,000 government affairs post at Midland Bank to cover maternity leave "on a fixed-term basis", the successful applicant should keep his or her eyes open for a follow-on job. The Listening Bank, which boasts 63 per cent female employees, has quickly axed its generous career break scheme that let new Midland mums take up to five years off, with their job guaranteed at the end. Now banking baby boomers get just 29 weeks' maternity leave.

RAILTRACK



John Edmonds, left, chief executive, Bob Horton, centre, chairman, and Norman Broadhurst, finance director, are leading Railtrack into the private sector

On track to offer investors an enticing opportunity

Jonathan Prynn reads between the lines to put the Railtrack flotation prospectus in perspective

A senior Department of Transport official involved with the privatisation of British Rail confided yesterday that she treats herself to a bottle of her favourite wine every time a former BR-owned company is sold off. It is beginning to cost her dear. With the sale of the Network SouthCentral passenger franchise last week, the tally passed its half century and there are still some 30 more to come.

But when Railtrack finally gets away next month, she could be forgiven for indulging in an entire crate of vintage champagne, because this is the big one. Not particularly in sheer financial terms — the rolling stock leasing company sale brought in just as much cash — but in terms of what the sale represents.

For Railtrack is, in every sense, the nuts and bolts of the rail industry. It owns the network laid down by Victorian entrepreneurs and engineers that was then the envy of the world. It is also at the centre of the complex matrix of relationships devised by the Government and its advisers to make the industry perform or suffer the consequences. Once in the hands of a million private investors, the sale will become almost impossible to unpick without further, intensely damaging, disruption to the industry.

It is this factor, and the need for revenue to fund tax cuts, that has driven the timing of the flotation, originally scheduled for after the election rather than a year before (parliamentary survival permitting). Ministers, driven by the privatisation junkies at the Treasury, are determined to leave a railway incapable of being rationalised by an incoming Labour government. With Railtrack in the private sector and the sale of a handful more rail franchises, they will

all but have achieved their aim.

The original announcement that "not less than 51 per cent" of the shares would be sold has never been more than a smoke screen. Barring a disastrous collapse in market conditions, which probably would have meant the entire sale being pulled, the Government has had no intention of carrying out a less than 100 per cent sale. Leaving almost half the shares in public hands could have left the company wholly at the mercy of a hostile government and made it child's play for Labour to restore a majority holding.

Even with a 100 per cent sale, SBC Warburg, the Government's lead advisers on the flotation, have had to lay on an array of enticing sweeteners to overcome investors' concerns about the company.

Apart from the many question marks still hanging over the quality of the senior management, future industrial re-

lations, safety and the complexity of the performance regime, two other factors make this a unique privatisation.

First, no other large state-owned corporation has been so heavily dependent on government revenues for its income stream in the private sector. Secondly, no other flotation has been so heavily overshadowed by political risk. Sure, privatisations have taken place within a year of an election before now, but not with such high expectations in the City of a Labour government being returned to power.

The Government has been forced to pay a heavy price for the City's instinctive caution about the sale. The 7 per cent yield is perhaps half a point higher than would have been offered under "normal" conditions, knocking up to £100 million from the sum the sale will realise. Railtrack's management was also able to extract a remarkably generous

deal from the Treasury over its debt structure in the private sector. It goes into the flotation with just £55 million of borrowings, giving gearing of just 24 per cent. The total write-off package is pushing £1 billion, at least £300 million more than the Government's original negotiating position.

On top of all that, the Government is spicing up the shares in an otherwise unexciting investment opportunity with an unprecedented package of sweeteners that will give shareholders a return of close on 20 per cent in the first 12 months. With building society rates marooned around the 4 per cent mark, the shares are offering a premium over "safe" returns that would not disgrace a junk bond.

There is a catch, of course. The second instalment on the shares will have to be paid 13 months after the flotation, by which time Tony Blair could be settling in at Downing Street. Even then, there is

more sugar for the pill in the form of a 15p per share discount on the second instalment. And with up to a million individual shareholders in the company, not to mention virtually every pension fund and insurance company in the land, how many votes would there be in depriving widows and orphans of their promised Railtrack bonanza?

After the flotation, Bob Horton can really let his private sector instincts rip. It has been an uncomfortable two years for him, stuck as he is between the rock of political interference by the Government and the hard place of Clare Short's contempt. If Railtrack can start to deliver the sort of investment and network improvements that it has been promising, without compromising safety or sparking a major confrontation with the unions, the public's regard for the company, still stuck at rock bottom, could begin to shift.

These are big ifs. But Railtrack executives are already quietly mustering about the "highly commercial deals" they expect to strike with train operators over track access once HMG is removed from the share register. If these flow through as lower train ticket prices for the traveller, the public's highly sceptical attitude towards rail privatisation could ultimately be transformed.

There is no doubt that Railtrack will be a very different company after May 20, when the shares are floated. But whether it will have time to make any difference is another matter.

The Government deserves praise for getting as far as it has, against all expectations, in the long, tortuous process of privatisation. It is now up to the private operators who have taken on the thankless task of running the railways to see if they can do any better than the State.



The way ahead: Railtrack executives are planning 'commercial deals' for after flotation

Why should the taxpayer have to subsidise so many non-viable products?

From Mr Anthony G. Phillips

Sir, I cannot recall a single day this year when you have not reported further UK job losses. So your report (March 28) that aid to Jaguar will guarantee several thousand new jobs seems to be generally welcomed.

The motor industry is seen as a barometer of British industry and is symptomatic of much that is wrong in this

country. According to my research, motorists today have the choice of some 1,400 models from 55 manufacturers — surely plenty of choice, especially when a new model can cost a billion pounds to develop. Add in a distorted tax regime that favours company cars and it will be mostly companies which buy the new model.

So taxpayers, poor and rich alike, will be subsidising vehi-

cles which many of us may aspire to but few of us afford. Employment is a means to an end, not an end in itself, so that producing goods and services which people do not want, let alone need, is little short of profligacy, further squandering materials and energy and adding unnecessary pollution in the dogmatic pursuit of "growth" and full employment. Already other manufacturers, even those far

from being "lame ducks", are jumping on the subsidy bandwagon. Yet if they have a viable product it will sell itself without the support of taxpayers. If products are non-viable then we should not be supporting them.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS,
32 Upper Street,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.

Ministers helped whisky exports to Japan

From Mr E. A. Tucker

Sir, I was surprised to read Robert Whymant's comment in his report from Tokyo (Lang) that Japanese to open up teleports, April 11) on the President of the Board of Trade's visit to Japan, that government pressure on trade issues — "such as barriers to Scotch Whisky" — has achieved little. This is certainly not the case with Scotch whisky.

It is true that the pressure was applied over a long period — some 17 years. But in 1987, the Japanese changed their liquor tax structure so as to remove from it the heavy discrimination it embodied against Scotch whisky (and

it is certainly the case that the matter is still not finally resolved, and that there remains preferential treatment in Japan for the local spirit, shochu-something to which the World Trade Organisation is applying itself at the moment).

But the progress already made, which has been of considerable significance to Scotch whisky, would not have been achieved without the steady and dedicated efforts of British Government ministers when visiting Japan.

Yours faithfully,
E. A. TUCKER,
Director of Public Affairs,
The Scotch Whisky
Association.

Property valuations and lending policies

From Mr Dennis Roberts

Sir, Mr Cliffe ("Surveyors must keep standards", April 5) implies that property valuations should not be influenced by mortgage lenders. Is this realistic?

The value of a property is the price someone will pay for it. It is governed by how much a prospective buyer can borrow.

The amount he can borrow is determined by (1) the surveyor's valuation and (2) lending policy, usually expressed as a multiple of annual income.

To consider only (1) is to argue in a circle: the value is what the valuation is. The critical factor is therefore (2). If

4 times income, loans and therefore house prices will rise. If they revert to 3½ times (early 1990s) prices will fall. It would be unprofessional for valuers to ignore this.

Should not mortgage lenders carry more responsibility for the valuations which are a reflection of their decisions on lending policy?

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS ROBERTS,
4 Maple Close,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

Letters to the
Business and Finance
section of The Times
can be sent
to: business@times.co.uk



Poisoned cup awaits Blair

It has become a laughably predictable feature of David Dimbleby's late night BBC election shows that the Conservative response to defeat is to call for tax cuts. Sir Norman Fowler, game as ever to try to turn failure into triumph, did it after the drubbing in European elections in June 1994. A pick-and-mix of right-wingers did it again last week after the Staffordshire South East by-election.

There really are lots of people in the Conservative Party who think tax cuts represent the only hope of collective salvation. This is extremely unlikely to be true, even in a country where aspirations towards greater prosperity have come down to investing in the National Lottery and spreading one's available wealth thinly among a large number of building societies in the hope that one or more of them will be taken over.

Lower taxes may not save the Tories, but they may provide scope for some giggardly satisfaction after the election. Tony Blair would face a fiscal poisoned chalice the minute he crosses the threshold of 10 Downing Street.

Labour has verbally locked itself into the same kind of monetary discipline currently practised by the Government and any leeway that it appeared to have last year, when Gordon Brown announced Labour's framework for fiscal policy, seems to have disappeared. Labour says it will observe the "golden rule" which ensures that the Government must only borrow to finance public investment over the cycle and keeps the ratio of debt to gross domestic product at a prudent level. It has not been specific, but is believed to mean well below the 60 per cent maximum under Maastricht.

David Walton, of Goldman Sachs, notes that Labour drew up these policies when the public sector borrowing requirement looked on course to drop to 2 per cent of GDP in 1997-98. Now he thinks the PSBR is likely to be nearer to 3.5 per cent of GDP in both 1996-97 and 1997-98. This assumes additional slippage in tax revenue compared with forecasts, some extra public spending, because of BSE

for example, and some £3 billion of tax cuts in November.

In money terms, Mr Walton is looking for a PSBR this year of £27 billion, compared with the Government's projection of £22.4 billion, and of £26 billion in 1997-98, compared with the Government's hoped-for £15 billion. We will see on Thursday how much the PSBR for the year just ended has overshoot the most recent projection of £29 billion: the betting is that it will be about £33 billion. On such assumptions, Labour would have to cut public borrowing by at least two percentage points of GDP to satisfy the "golden rule", and by 1 per cent of GDP to stabilise the debt/GDP ratio. This is assuming that Labour sticks roughly to the extremely tough government public spending plans.

Of course, the figures Mr Brown will find when he opens the books may imply an even more difficult public finance picture. Here are just three sources of concern for an incoming Labour government, some more important than others. First, it is likely that the lottery is flattening the PSBR currently by at least £1 billion because of the delay between money coming in and being disbursed. This may be relatively small beer and will iron itself out over time. It, nevertheless, reminds that the Government is better off to the tune of £1 billion: Labour could find itself £1 billion worse off in future years.

Another uncomfortable element of current policy is the Private Finance Initiative, an idea which Labour is, if anything, more keen on than the Government. Nevertheless, the Government is neatly cutting public borrowing now, by slashing its capital spending budget and deferring spending into future years. Michael Jack, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that, to get a real idea of spending implied by nearly £5 billion of projects signed in 1995-96, the total ought to be tripled. But the biggest worry of all is that Ken Clarke's Iron Chancellor act vanishes under electoral pressure and tight control on spending is abandoned. Such things even Mr Blair cannot control.

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Shares squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
536	428	Banquet	52	-	3.4	11
536	428	Banquet	52	-	3.4	11
536	428	Banquet	52	-	3.4	11
536	428	Banquet	52	-	3.4	11
536	428	Banquet	52	-	3.4	11

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
280	270	ABN-AMRO	270	-	4.3	11
280	270	ABN-AMRO	270	-	4.3	11
280	270	ABN-AMRO	270	-	4.3	11
280	270	ABN-AMRO	270	-	4.3	11
280	270	ABN-AMRO	270	-	4.3	11

BREWERY, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
50	40	Asahi	40	-	3.7	11
50	40	Asahi	40	-	3.7	11
50	40	Asahi	40	-	3.7	11
50	40	Asahi	40	-	3.7	11
50	40	Asahi	40	-	3.7	11

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
17	17	AFI	17	-	3.7	11
17	17	AFI	17	-	3.7	11
17	17	AFI	17	-	3.7	11
17	17	AFI	17	-	3.7	11
17	17	AFI	17	-	3.7	11

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11	11	Abeyaratne	11	-	3.7	11
11	11	Abeyaratne	11	-	3.7	11
11	11	Abeyaratne	11	-	3.7	11
11	11	Abeyaratne	11	-	3.7	11
11	11	Abeyaratne	11	-	3.7	11

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
188	188	Alkermes	188	-	3.7	11
188	188	Alkermes	188	-	3.7	11
188	188	Alkermes	188	-	3.7	11
188	188	Alkermes	188	-	3.7	11
188	188	Alkermes	188	-	3.7	11

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
58	58	ARL	58	-	3.7	11
58	58	ARL	58	-	3.7	11
58	58	ARL	58	-	3.7	11
58	58	ARL	58	-	3.7	11
58	58	ARL	58	-	3.7	11

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
255	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11
255	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11
255	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11
255	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11
255	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
415	350	Adams	350	-	3.7	11
415	350	Adams	350	-	3.7	11
415	350	Adams	350	-	3.7	11
415	350	Adams	350	-	3.7	11
415	350	Adams	350	-	3.7	11

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
975	800	Adams	800	-	3.7	11
975	800	Adams	800	-	3.7	11
975	800	Adams	800	-	3.7	11
975	800	Adams	800	-	3.7	11
975	800	Adams	800	-	3.7	11

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
130	115	Adams	115	-	3.7	11
130	115	Adams	115	-	3.7	11
130	115	Adams	115	-	3.7	11
130	115	Adams	115	-	3.7	11
130	115	Adams	115	-	3.7	11

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
49	49	Adams	49	-	3.7	11
49	49	Adams	49	-	3.7	11
49	49	Adams	49	-	3.7	11
49	49	Adams	49	-	3.7	11
49	49	Adams	49	-	3.7	11

MEDIAS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
130	105	Adams	105	-	3.7	11
130	105	Adams	105	-	3.7	11
130	105	Adams	105	-	3.7	11
130	105	Adams	105	-	3.7	11
130	105	Adams	105	-	3.7	11

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
148	148	Adams	148	-	3.7	11
148	148	Adams	148	-	3.7	11
148	148	Adams	148	-	3.7	11
148	148	Adams	148	-	3.7	11
148	148	Adams	148	-	3.7	11

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
200	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11
200	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11
200	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11
200	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11
200	200	Adams	200	-	3.7	11

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
300	300	Adams	300	-	3.7	11
300	300	Adams	300	-	3.7	11
300	300	Adams	300	-	3.7	11
300	300	Adams	300	-	3.7	11
300	300	Adams	300	-	3.7	11

TEXTILES & APPAREL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11
100	100	Adams	100	-	3.7	11

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
130	130	Adams	130	-	3.7	11
130	130	Adams	130	-	3.7	11
130	130	Adams	130	-	3.7	11
130	130	Adams	130	-	3.7	11
130	130	Adams	130	-	3.7	11

RETAILERS, FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11

OTHER FINANCIAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
143	143	Adams	143	-	3.7	11
143	143	Adams	143	-	3.7	11
143	143	Adams	143	-	3.7	11
143	143	Adams	143	-	3.7	11
143	143	Adams	143	-	3.7	11

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11
117	117	Adams	117	-	3.7	11

RETAILERS, GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11
110	110	Adams	110	-	3.7	11

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Pace plans £200m flotation to fund overseas expansion

By ERIC REGULY

PACE, a technology company that makes decoders for satellite and cable television, said yesterday that it planned to list its shares on the London Stock Exchange this summer. The offering will capitalise Pace at about £200 million and allow it to fund its overseas expansion.

Pace expects to sell less than 50 per cent of the company, allowing David Hood and Barry Rubery, the founders and joint chief executives, to retain control.

Panmure Gordon and BZW, the underwriters, were not able to say how many shares are to be sold or give their indicated price range. The prospectus is to be published in late May or June.

The offering is expected to be one of the largest in the British technology sector this year. Public financings in the industry have been rare in recent months.

Pace has no direct competitor in this country. Its speciality is the development and

production of analogue and digital receivers and decoders for the domestic and foreign markets. About 80 per cent of the company's sales are made to overseas customers. In the nine months to March 2, it reported pre-tax profits of £9 million on turnover of £125 million.

In Britain, it controls roughly half of the market for the analogue decoders used by customers of BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster owned 40 per cent by News International, publisher of *The Times*.

Pace is also trying to develop a single decoder that can be used to unscramble terrestrial and satellite digital signals. The BBC and BSkyB hope to launch digital TV services within the next few years and the idea is to minimise the customer's expense by producing one box that can be used for both.

Mr Rubery, who owns 26 per cent of Pace, said: "We would be very surprised if we did not get a significant piece of the digital decoder market in Britain."

Vanguard Medica, the drugs development company, which was launched by six industry veterans, including Sir John Vane, the Nobel prizewinner, said its May flotation would raise about £40 million.

All of the shares will be placed with institutional investors, but will be traded on the London Stock Exchange on the day after the sale, allowing individual shareholders to buy. The flotation will value Vanguard at about £80 million.

High rise of the tiger economies

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

THE topping out of the world's tallest building, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, has confirmed that Asia's tiger economies are no longer content just to beat the West in terms of gross domestic product.

The 452-metre twin towers, the first non-occidental record-breakers in the global skyscraper league, confirm that Asia wants to flaunt its wealth. Successors are lining up on the drawing boards of the world's top architects — the Shanghai World Financial Centre, scheduled for completion after the turn of the century, will be 458 metres high.

In Hong Kong, meanwhile, Nina Wang, Asia's most powerful businesswoman, is keeping her cards closely guarded — all that is known is that her Kowloon Nina Tower is to be the tallest of all.

For Asian governments, the mad rush skywards sends a signal to the West about their intentions — to rid themselves for good of their "developing nation" tags and to symbolise membership of the world's elite. For domestic voters there is a message, too: do you really want to mess with a government capable of erecting such grandeur in your midst?

Western architects and engineers see the phenomenon more prosaically: Asia is pro-

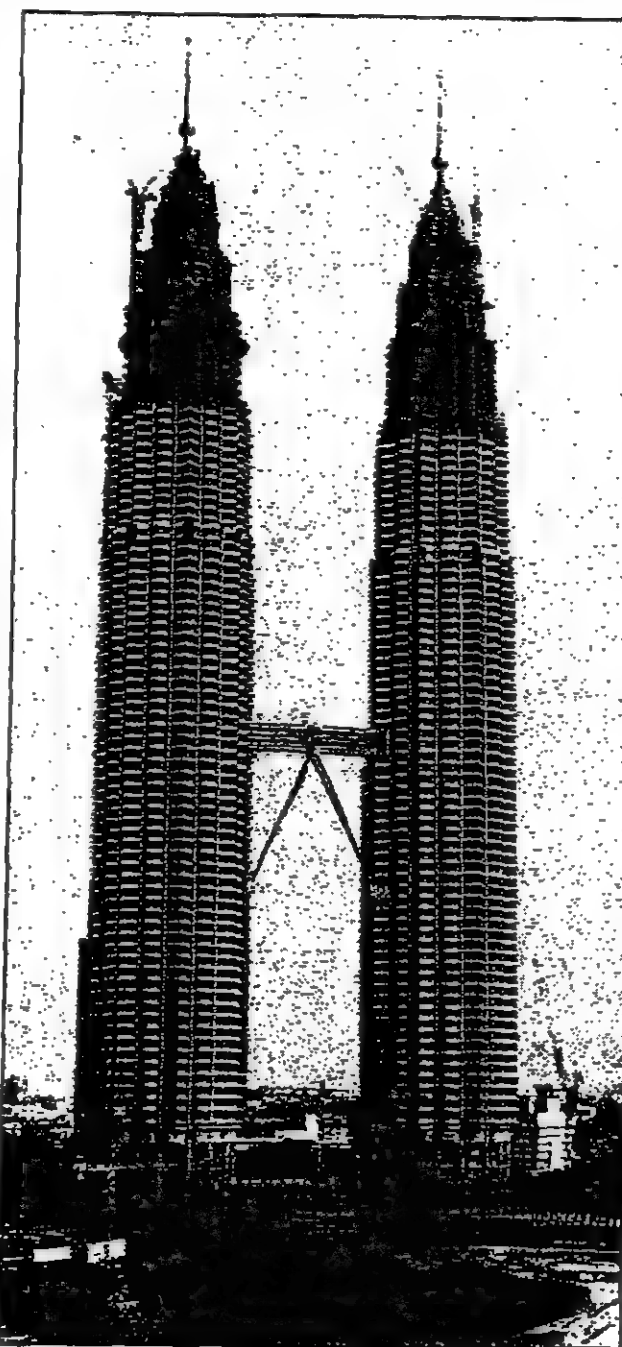
viding jobs. For many American practices, the specialists in skyscraper design, Asia now takes up between half and two-thirds of turnover.

Even European companies capable of operating in the big league, such as Ove Arup and Partners, the engineer, are devoting about 25 per cent of their resources to the region. Derek Smyth, a senior engineer with the company, says: "Asia is where the challenges lie."

The economics of such massive structures are at best cavalier. Architects and engineers agree that the cost efficiency of any building drops off sharply above 12 storeys.

Nina Wang's tower, located in a downmarket area of Kowloon, appears to defy logic to the extent that it can only be a monument. Set to cost about \$10 billion, Mrs Wang has dedicated the tower to the memory of her husband, David, who disappeared in mysterious circumstances during a chase involving an amateurish triad and a Chinese naval vessel.

Chicago's Sears Tower held the world's tallest title for 22 years. Given the business dynamism of Asia, Petronas Towers, the Shanghai financial centre and Nina Tower are all likely to be eclipsed rather sooner.



Up and up: the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur

Jobs boost for Ulster as Seagate expands

A £50 million investment by Seagate Technology, the American computer company, in Londonderry, one of the UK's worst unemployment blackspots, will create an additional 300 jobs by the end of 1996. Seagate has already invested £125 million in Ulster since 1992.

Employment at Seagate's Springtown plant is expected to rise to more than 1,100, well over double the figure envisaged when production began two years ago.

The NI Industrial Development Board will provide £10.4 million in selective assistance towards the expansion, which was announced yesterday.

Wardle quest

Wardle Storeys, the manufacturer of plastic sheet, parachutes and inflatable systems, said a number of acquisition opportunities were being "vigorously pursued". Yesterday the company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £4.8 million (£3.4 million) in the six months to February 29. Earnings were 12.5p (9.1p) a share. The interim dividend is 6p (5p). Shares rose 6p to 436p.

AG ahead 33%

AG Holdings, the UK's largest cable reel maker, which is based in Doncaster, benefited from stabilising timber prices to make interim pre-tax profits of £1.57 million, a rise of 33 per cent. The interim dividend was held at 2.25p, while earnings per share rose 1.1p to 5.3p.

Liabilities up

Japan's corporate bankruptcy liabilities hit a record high in the year to March, rising 32 per cent from a year earlier to 8,417 billion yen (around £51.5 billion), Teikoku Databank, a private credit research agency, reported yesterday.

Philips deal

Philips Electronics has acquired Bomco, one of Germany's leading distributors of computer and video games software, for an undisclosed sum. Bomco anticipates sales of DM90 million in 1996.

US expansion

Williams Holdings, the UK's industrial conglomerate, is acquiring Nighthawk Systems, one of the leading suppliers of carbon monoxide detectors in the US, for £13 million.

Olives rise

Olives Property, the housing investment and development company, reported a 19.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £746,000 in the 12 months to December 31. Earnings per share rose 0.11p to 1.27p.

Johnson Fry final stays unchanged

JOHNSON FRY Holdings, the financial services group, held its final dividend unchanged at 2p a share yesterday after a fall in 1995 pre-tax profits to £2.9 million from £4.2 million (Robert Miller writes). The total dividend for the year ending December 31 was doubled to 4p a share.

Paul Gildersleeves, finance director, said the fall in pre-tax profits reflected a £3 million non-recurring profit that appeared in the previous accounts and £1 million in start-up costs for new businesses last year.

Johnson Fry increased its portfolio of residential properties under management by 22 per cent to 13,647. Operating profits from housing management were more than halved to £2.3 million. Funds under management rose by £100 million to £370 million and the division made an operating profit of £972,000 (£643,000).

Tempos, page 28

Fraud puts Eastern Europe off agenda

By JON ASHWORTH

A GROWING number of UK companies are refusing to do business in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union because of rising levels of fraud, a survey has found.

And Singapore, Italy and America are singled out as risky in the poll that rates Nigeria as the worst risk of all.

Poor internal controls and collusion between employees and third parties are among factors fueling fraud running at more than \$1 billion a year, according to a worldwide study by KPMG. Three quarters of UK respondents named Nigeria as a country in which they would not do business. More than a quarter said they would avoid Russia and former Iron Curtain countries.

Adam Bates, a partner in KPMG, said: "With the increased sophistication of criminals and the difficulty UK businesses have in monitoring and controlling transactions

conducted overseas, international fraud is a major problem. Fraud awareness, prevention and detection needs to be a priority for British companies who operate internationally."

Legislation aimed at protecting employees who "blow the whistle" on their workmates could be enacted in the UK early next year. The Public Interest Disclosure Bill goes before a committee of MPs tomorrow and is due for a third reading in the summer.

The Bill, introduced by Don Touhig, Labour MP for Islwyn, seeks to provide safeguards for employees who draw attention to misconduct or malpractice. Employees are often aware of fraud within their organisation, but are too frightened to come forward. Public Concern at Work, a London-based charity that provides free confidential legal advice for concerned employees, said companies stood to

save millions of pounds through improved lines of communication.

A multinational company recently exposed an alleged £32 million purchasing fraud after one of its employees contacted Public Concern at Work. Five people are now facing trial on charges of fraud, theft, and false accounting.

"Jack", the employee who broke the alleged fraud, said that steps to protect whistleblowers were to be welcomed. He said: "People would like to come right out and tell the company, but are worried about reprisals. They are worried about losing their job. In such a large company, people high up tend to think this can't be going on. They'd rather not know about it and don't want the bad publicity."

Public Concern at Work runs a confidential helpline for employees. The number is 0171 404 6609.

Amey consortium gears up for tram contract

By PAUL DURMAN

THE £200 million contract to design, build and run a tram network for Croydon is expected to be awarded this week to a consortium involving Amey and Robert McAlpine, the construction companies, and CentreWest, the bus company.

The project, linking Croydon with Wimbledon and Beckenham as part of a 28-kilometre system, is part of the Government's Private Finance Initiative. The decision should be announced by the Department of Transport tomorrow or on Thursday.

Backers of the consortium, Tramtrack (Croydon), include the Royal Bank of Scotland and Bombardier, the rolling stock manufacturer. The network should take about three years to build.

For Amey, the contract will be the second big boost to its



King: rating strategy

known as a road-builder, the company last month secured the £15 million purchase of one of British Rail's track maintenance companies.

Amey yesterday reported its 1995 results, with pre-tax profits slightly ahead at £5.3 million (£5.1 million). Earnings were also flat at 12.7p

paying a final dividend of 4.7p (3p), increasing the total payout 58 per cent to 7.1p.

The Government's cutbacks to its road-building programme has checked Amey's growth and prompted the company to seek more facilities management work. An example is the £80 million contract it has with the City of Portsmouth.

Eddie King, chief executive, wants Amey to be treated as a support services company — which would command a higher rating on the stock market. He said more than 60 per cent of 1995's profits came from facilities management and maintenance.

Amey is considering asking to be reclassified by the Stock Exchange. Mr King said the true profitability of the railway maintenance business was about £6 million to £7 million.

GWR Group plc

(Registered in England No. 715143)

Rights Issue of 6,435,161 units of convertible subordinated unsecured loan stock 1996/2001 ("Loan Stock") of 5p nominal value at 205p per unit (automatically convertible into ordinary shares of GWR Group plc ("the Company")).

CANCELLATION OF SECOND INSTALMENT

The Company announced on 3rd April, 1996 that it had not been successful in its offer to acquire Radio New Zealand Limited and that it would not now be calling the Second Instalment of the Rights Issue launched on 22nd March, 1996.

Pursuant to condition 2.4 of the deed poll of the Company dated 22nd March, 1996 constituting the Loan Stock ("the Deed Poll"), notice is hereby given that, as a result of the announcement, the Second Instalment has automatically been deemed to have been cancelled with effect from 3rd April, 1996.

Accordingly, every 2.77027 partly paid stock unit has been consolidated into one fully paid stock unit, which will automatically convert into one new ordinary share of 5p in the Company subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Deed Poll.

16th April, 1996

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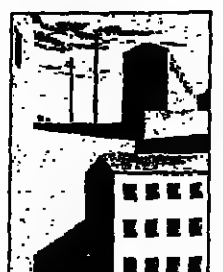


Chartered Accountants produce results all year round



■ VISUAL ART 1

Unloved and unlovely: the Hayward Gallery needs a complete overhaul, says Richard Cork



■ VISUAL ART 2

A dream of ghostly buildings: Martin Kane's haunted landscapes receive a London show



THE TIMES ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

... and another London gallery revives the work of Anthony Gilbert, creator of the After Eight box



■ JAZZ

From Stephane Grappelli to Andy Sheppard: the big names turn out at Cheltenham

Richard Cork demands immediate action to save the Hayward Gallery as a major art forum. Plus, the NatWest Prize

The beast needs feeding, or beauty will die

When the Greater London Council opened the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank in 1968, it was an exciting event thoroughly attuned to the optimistic spirit of the period. Matisse was the apt subject of the Arts Council's inaugural exhibition, and his work filled the uncompromising interior with a radiant affirmation of vitality. I remember visiting that inspirational show as an awed student, and spending hours there drawing the paintings and sculpture with a feeling of intoxicated admiration.

Since that heady occasion the Hayward has mounted an abundance of major exhibitions ranging over the entire history of art. But the building itself, which must have seemed the last word in Brutalist modernity when it was designed, gradually became more and more inadequate. By 1985, when the GLC commissioned an independent report called *Art on the South Bank*, the gallery's shortcomings were criticised in detail.

As co-author of that report, with Balraj Khanna and Shirley Read, I naturally hoped that it would provide a springboard for swift action. But soon after its publication the following year, the GLC was abolished, and although the newly created South Bank Board promised to transform the Hayward, woefully little has been done to the building over the past decade. Looking over our report today, I am appalled to realise that most of its recommendations are still waiting to be implemented.

For the sake of the Hayward, and the future of the visual arts in this country, urgent action must be taken now. Occupying a site on one of the largest art complexes in the world, this is a major gallery with an important international role. But it has become hamstrung by the deficiencies of a building planned and erected with a painfully limited notion of what such an institution should offer visitors.

The gallery's bunker-like facade is redolent of a time when architects shied away from making their facades inviting to the eye. And inside the Hayward scant provision is made for the public's needs. The foyer is ridiculously mean and cramped, leading to congestion whenever a well-attended show is held. True, the tiny bookshop's removal and expansion has made the foyer a little less restricting. But it still fails to reflect the importance of the Hayward as a whole, and the bookshop now occupies a room which originally formed a vital part of the exhibition space.

Inside, the sequence of galleries is handsome enough to make the Hayward a building well worth cherishing. Sculpture looks partic-

ularly impressive. Rodin has thrived here in two magnificent surveys, and contemporary sculptors from Anthony Caro to Tony Cragg have benefited hugely from their exposure. As for Richard Long, his show was a revelation for anyone who doubted the Hayward's ability to enhance the art on display. By relying on the inherent strength of the spaces at his disposal, Long proved that the building's unmodified interior provides a powerful setting for modern art at its most elemental. And I am sure that the 40,000 figures in Antony Gormley's *Field for the British Isles*, recently acquired for the Arts Council Collection, will look marvellous when it makes its London debut there later this year.

I disagree, however, with those who claim that the Hayward provides a poor backdrop for painting. The triumphant Matisse retrospective scotched that notion

temporarily erected on an outdoor sculpture court? And where, above all, is the additional but separate gallery, which would enable the Hayward to open all the year round? At the moment, it is open for only nine months in any given year: the rest of the time, its doors are closed while exhibitions are taken down and assembled.

The appeal of any major centre would be seriously undermined by such a policy. The ever-booming Tate Gallery is closed for only a few days each year, and the Festival Hall is open all year apart from Christmas Day — a fact that accounts for much of its popularity. Part of the Hayward should always be open to the public, and the obvious place for its additional gallery is on the ground level (at present occupied by a grim, unsafe parking area and loading bay).

If this desolate underbelly were incorporated into the Hayward, and provided with an entrance of its own, the gallery's appeal would be enormously increased. For the first time, the Hayward could announce its existence to the South Bank Centre's visitors at street level. And the exhibition space constructed there would encourage the much-needed development of a more adventurous policy with younger artists, who only make rare appearances in the Hayward's current programme.

All these proposals, and many more besides, were recommended in our report to the GLC. The fact that nothing has happened in the intervening years is a cause for dismay. If the stalemate continues any longer, the Hayward's reputation will be gravely damaged. We expect a great deal of our flagship art galleries nowadays, and any building that remains locked in the limited thinking of 30 years ago is bound to suffer.

By the end of the century, if all goes well, the Tate Gallery of Modern Art will open with splendid facilities not very far from the South Bank Centre. If the Hayward remains unaltered, it will look even more shabby and obsolescent compared with the spectacular spaces on offer inside the converted power station at Bankside.

That is why the outcome of the South Bank Centre's current lottery bid is so important. Until now, attention has inevitably focused on the overall cost of implementing the plan for the entire site. Richard Rogers's ambitious and seductive design, with its wave of glass undulating beside the Thames, has dominated public discussion. But the distinct needs of the Hayward are too easily overlooked when bound together with his "crystal palace", and the total lottery bid of

£127 million. Extract them for a moment, and you find that the gallery's future can be secured for the relatively modest amount of £11 million. That is the cost of implementing the changes I have already outlined, as well as enhancing the neglected sculpture terraces, introducing a relocated and expanded Hayward shop, enlarging the foyer, overhauling and upgrading environment controls within the gallery, improving the facilities for staff, storage and loading, restoring the decayed concrete on the building's facade, and redesigning the gallery ceilings and lighting.

Much remains to be clarified in the detail design phase, and the contribution made by the Hayward's new director (who should be appointed this summer) will clearly be vital. But enough has already been proposed in the Rogers masterplan to ensure that it attains the right balance between preservation and transformation. While honouring the identity of the existing architecture, and seeing that its merits as a showcase for art are protected, the scheme will also give us a revitalised Hayward fit for its dramatically expanded role in the 21st century. If these changes are not implemented soon, the gallery will ossify and perish. That would be a national disgrace, and the £11 million required to secure the Hayward's viability is a price well worth paying.

JOHN CLARKE



"The Hayward's bunker-like facade is redolent of a time when architects shied away from making their facades inviting to the eye"

6 The galleries are handsome enough to make the Hayward a building worth cherishing

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JOHN CLARKE

IT IS perhaps unexpected, but deserved, that women artists have scooped the pool in this year's NatWest 90s Prize for Art. This year a record total of 686 artists went in for it, about equally divided between male and female. All five finalists — selected, ironically, by a jury of eight men — were women. That won't surprise anyone who has been keeping tabs on recent art-school graduation shows. Noticeable everywhere have been not only the large numbers of women students, but also the high proportion with real talent.

The top prize (£20,000) went to Sarah Raphael, with a large landscape derived from a recent visit to the Australian outback. This shows a marked change of direction since Raphael's last London show, which was stied entirely on the fringes of fantasy. *Gibber Desert Constellation II* is painted with her usual meticulousness, but presents an aerial view verging on abstraction. The other prizewinners include bold portrait heads by Frances Borden (second prize of £10,000), figure compositions by Sarah Florence and Charlotte Sorapure, and, for the special student prize, a scene of female bathers at Hampstead Pond by Harriet Barber. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-439 7438) until Friday

AROUND THE GALLERIES

AMONG the younger British painters (he is now in his mid-thirties), Martin Kane has one of the most instantly recognisable private worlds. The easiest shorthand to describe his new show is to say that the paintings look like classic surrealist De Chirico without the overt fantasy. These strange, blind, empty-seeming buildings, despite their industrial overtones, come out of a dream rather than grainy reality. Often the pictures become almost abstract, so compulsive is Kane's playing with flat, featureless planes. Also, these seem to be cities of the dead: most of the pictures have no human characters at all. All the same, there is something compelling about these ghostly vistas. Also, maybe, a glimmering of hope: the tiny men are gradually getting bigger. *Beaux Arts*, 22 Cork Street, W1 (0171-437 5799) until May 4

FEW today will have heard of Anthony Gilbert. Even in his lifetime (1916-95) he was always the kind of designer and draughtsman who would be cherished by his peers but make little splash outside that small circle. Between 1943 and 1969 he lurked

within the bosom of J. Walter Thompson, so that even if some of his work, like the After Eight box, was very well known, he remained anonymous. The catalogue of this studio show is vague about dates, but the history is plain to read. The earliest works, exquisitely delicate drawings done in the Forties and Fifties for *Radio Times* and such, are succeeded by a large number of watercolours intensely redolent of the Sixties, full of curving, neo-Art Nouveau shapes, sometimes decked out in near-psychedellic colours. There are bold floral designs suggesting late Matisse cut-outs, delicate and accomplished still-lives, portraits which indicate an extensive experience of fashion-drawing. Even more intriguing, there are mysterious works which look like monographs, both in colour and in black-and-white, in which the pigment has been applied to the back of the paper and forced through to the front while still wet, giving a wonderful variety of unrepeatable textures. Most of the work is intensely period, but all the better for that. *David Messum Fine Art*, 8 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 5545) until April 30

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

BLUES: Marathon man still going strong after 30 years of gigs

IT HAS taken him 30 years of gigs and a move from his American roots but it looks like Luther Allison could be the next heavyweight contender for the blues throne. Born in Arkansas, raised in Chicago and exiled to France, the 56-year-old blues guitarist is on a roll at the moment, with his latest album *Blue Streak* having been nominated for a clutch of W.C. Handy awards (a Grammy). He came to the Bottom Line with a growing reputation for his live performances, and did not disappoint.

There was no support act and no interval — and, as it later turned out, no encore. Just close on three hours of solid playing. With such a marathon performance, there is always a danger that quality

Every inch a winner

Luther Allison Bottom Line, W12

will give way to quantity. And while there may have been a slight sag here and there as Luther, or the audience, paused for breath, he managed to keep the momentum going and actually improve as the night wore on.

Despite his age, and his Chicago upbringing, this was

not a rerun of the blues as it was then, but a dazzling exhibition of blues as it is now.

Backed by his European band and beefed up by a two-strong brass section, one of whom took to break-dancing whenever he had the opportunity, Luther's power chords shook the building as he growled, crooned and shouted his way through a set of strong, mainly self-composed songs.

"We don't let up," he warned early on, and he wasn't wrong. From the new album came *All The King's Horses*, *Move From The Hood*, *What's Going On In My Home* and *You Don't Know*, while a relaxed *Worried Blue* gave him a rare opportunity to display his blues harp prowess.

Then, cradling his guitar, he built up to a grand finale with guitar solos that built from a whisper to a scream before ending, drained but triumphant, with a stunning instrumental version of *It Hurts Me Too*.

And drained he was. While the rest of the band came back on stage, and the crowd bayed for more, a bare-chested Luther reappeared with a towel draped around his shoulders to say that he was too hot and too tired to carry on. But never mind, it was another winning bout, and one step closer to the title.

JOHN CLARKE

A warm wind blows in from Norway

Even the weather could not dampen the spirits of Alyn Shipton at the first Cheltenham Jazz Festival

Furries of snow blustered over the town as Andy Sheppard and the Bergen Big Band played the opening notes of Cheltenham's first international jazz festival. There were wry comments from Sheppard, especially as his new commission for the occasion was deliberately evocative of warmth and sunshine, called *Harmattan* after the Saharan wind. Hard on the heels of Sheppard's *Delivery Suite* and *Well-kept Secret*, both rejigged for the Bergen Band's 17 pieces, *Harmattan* made less impact than the preceding works had not been fundamentally similar.

Sheppard's bands generally adapt to his building block technique of writing, where motifs or ostinatos are set up in turn by different sections of the band and sound against one another, with solos built over the top. The Bergen musicians have absorbed this style brilliantly, and the minimalist mantras set up by bass trombonist Jan Erik Husum were the groundwork for some impressive effects, but there was too little variety in 90 minutes of music.

Ironically, the encore, *Carla, Carla, Carla*, from Sheppard's album, *Soft on the Inside*, is written more conventionally, with a long melodic line and regular harmonic structure, and its contrasting style might have offered a better launch-pad for the new

piece. *Harmattan* itself began with a variety of airy effects, and alto saxophonist Øysten Sjøstad emerged victorious from a saxophone chase in which Zoltan Vincendort's tenor paced Sheppard effectively. Elsewhere there were some atmospheric moments from British keyboard player Steve Loder, bass clarinetist Jan Karl Hystad and trumpeter Didrik Ingvaldsen.

By bringing the Norwegian band to Britain for the first time, and commissioning a major new work, Cheltenham is clearly serious about putting itself on the jazz festival map. It was helped by a clever programme as varied as the spring weather, comfortable venues within an easy walk of one another, and the kind of surprises that make a festival a sure-fire success.

Freddie Hubbard failed to show and was replaced by Gerard Presencer. John Etheridge sat in for a couple of numbers with a wheelchair-bound but magical Stephane Grappelli. Benny Golson joined Roots for their set, and Tommy Smith made a surprise appearance with percussionist Trilok Gurtu.

Gurtu's set fell into two extended halves, much of the first from his new album, *Bud*

Habits Die Hard. Sitting, kneeling and moving about his raised dais full of exotic percussion, Gurtu peered out through a forest of cymbal stands to urge his band through pieces with delicate timbres and shades, alternating with robust electric funk. British bassist Mike Mondesir, making his first appearance with the group, fell naturally into the riffs alongside seasoned American guitarist David Gilmore.

Gurtu's ability to keep entirely different rhythms going with both hands and his left foot was matched evenly by French keyboardist Andy Emier, his left hand pacing the guitar riffs and his right darting over the synthesizer.

The final part of the programme was dominated by American heavyweights, the saxophone repertory band Roots following their fortnight at Ronnie Scott's, and Ray Brown and his trio fitting Cheltenham between concerts in Oslo and Barcelona.

Brown's group explores familiar mainstream jazz territory but finds plenty new to say. Benny Green is one of the world's most impressive young pianists, and his tribute to the late Phineas Newborn and a virtuoso performance of

Dizzy Gillespie's *Con Alma* showed the degree to which he has escaped the Oscar Peterson mantle to develop a sure solo voice of his own, with a stylistic range that extends



Frederic Leighton 1830-1896

from delicate quicksilver runs to massive locked hand chords. Brown's unparalleled experience has rubbed off on a group that can play extremely slowly or very quietly and still swing like mad, and only he would have chosen to end on the Dixieland warhorse *Ja Da* and turn it into a tour de force of trio bebop.

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MUSIC 1

Return of the maestro: Riccardo Muti is back with the Philharmonia after a decade



MUSIC 2

Sibelius in bulk: the Barbican enjoys a Swedish slant on the great Finn's symphonies

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC 3

The fine Swedish mezzo, Anne Sofie von Otter, reveals many sides to her talent at the Wigmore Hall



TOMORROW

Lord Menuhin at 80: the great violinist talks about his eight decades of music-making



John Allison talks to Riccardo Muti about the maestro's reunion with the Philharmonia this week

Conduct becoming

Riccardo Muti's return to London this week is an event of special significance. Not only is it eight years since he last conducted a London orchestra — more recent visits have been with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Vienna Philharmonic — but more than a decade has elapsed since he left his post as music director of the Philharmonia Orchestra. Muti's long association with the Philharmonia, which began when he succeeded Klemperer in 1972, is now looked back on as a golden period, and their first concert together again on Thursday will doubtless stir memories. Why have we waited so long for this reunion?

Muti cites the heavy commitments of his music directorships in Philadelphia (until 1992) and at La Scala, but adds: "When you start a new chapter you worry that the previous one will not be the same again. It's best to move on to new experiences, though not to forget. But for this concert as part of the Philharmonia's 50th anniversary celebrations I decided to come back. I want to underline

my gratitude to the musicians — and to my public in London. People can say what they like about the Royal Festival Hall being ugly, but it's nice to make music there. I see this concert as recognition of something good for both the orchestra and myself in a world today where things are difficult to achieve and easy to forget."

Although Muti has never commented on the subject publicly, it is not insignificant that he waited until after the departure of his successor, Giuseppe Sinopoli, to return. Italian maestros are not noted for their mutual admiration, but Sinopoli's conducting left little for anyone to admire. The Philharmonia's fortunes are now on the rise again, and several players from the Muti years have come back. "I'm very anxious to hear the orchestra again — I remember a certain Philharmonia sound."

He recalls how his life changed when he first conducted the New Philharmonia (as it was then). "After the rehearsal, the committee of the orchestra asked me if I wanted to become principal conductor. I was young, and it was completely unexpected. The thought of following Klemperer in London frightened me. But I realised that it was the players themselves, not the management or an agent, who wanted me. When we started, the orchestra was low, because Klemperer did little during his last years. But we worked very hard, standards started to go up and with them confidence — to the point that we decided to revert to the old, glorious name of Philharmonia." In 1979 the post of music director was created for him.

Muti is an autocrat, indeed one of the few modern maestros with old-

fashioned virtues of charisma and authority. He commands a respect that is palpable in the corridors around his elegant office at La Scala, and audible in his high-voltage performances. He has been described as a latter-day Toscanini, not least because of his rigorous adherence to composers' intentions. His mission at La Scala to perform Verdi as "dramma in musica", with none of the interpolated high notes of tradition and without applause between arias, has meant disciplining both singers and a difficult Milan public. And he no longer records operas in the studio, only live. "I don't want Violetta to die when the red light says 'Go!'"

The programme he conducts at the Festival Hall on Thursday is close to his heart. It opens with Haydn's great Symphony No 48 in C, *Maria*

Theresia. "I like this symphony very much, not only because the Empress Maria Theresia built La Scala, but because many years ago it was a tremendous success when I did it with the Philharmonia in London — maybe it will be a sign of good luck!" Cherubini's Mass in D minor reflects another of Muti's enthusiasms. He recorded three Cherubini masses during his days with the Philharmonia and does much to revive undervalued Italian music.

Muti has exciting plans for La Scala, but hopes it will be his last music directorship. "I'm not planning to finish in Milan just yet, but when I do I will cut down drastically on the number of performances I do. I want to think about life." Don't conductors go on for ever? "That's the problem — many don't understand when it's time to retire, and it's painful to see orchestras trying to help their conductors along. I hope that God will give me the intelligence to know when it's time to say 'Basta!'"

● Riccardo Muti conducts the Philharmonia at the Festival Hall 10/11-10/12/96 on Thursday



Riccardo Muti returns: "I want to underline my gratitude to the musicians — and to my public in London"

CONCERTS: A Sibelius weekend

On to the Finnish

ADD the Violin Concerto and a handful of tone poems, and a cycle of Sibelius symphonies makes an ideal weekend event of four programmes. With the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra under the experienced Estonian conductor Neeme Järvi, the stage was set at the Barbican for something special.

Friday night's programme got off to a disappointing start, however, with a lacklustre performance of the Seventh Symphony (an odd choice to launch the cycle) and Violin Concerto. After two concerts it was possible to see where Järvi and his forces were heading: streamlined accounts highlighting structural contours rather than dwelling on detail. But the Seventh emerged with such matter-of-factness that it seemed Järvi had still to get his eye in. The ascending scale that opens the single-movement work and the cadence that closes it encompass the essence of the symphonic argument, but both were thrown away.

The soloist in the Violin Concerto was the Chinese-American Cho-Liang Lin. His recording of the work with Esa-Pekka Salonen may have achieved classic status, but here there was no great inspiration.

Things began to look up in the other C Major Symphony

— the Third. This is Sibelius at his most classical and showing a sure grasp of the succinct, wholly original processes he was to make his own. In the first movement, the hectic activity was channelled impressively by Järvi, but it was the third movement, with its innovative compression of scherzo and finale, that demonstrated his far-sighted control most convincingly. Not everything was on this level: the final bars failed to broaden sufficiently to sustain the weight of the structure.

Saturday evening, however, brought — in addition to a fine performance of *The Oceanides* — much more satisfactory readings of the Fourth and First Symphonies. The tensions of the Fourth were exploited masterfully by Järvi and the finale was a thrilling resolution of the tonal conflicts at the root of the work.

The Gothenburgers were at their most intense here, just as they were at their warmest and most vibrant in the First. Järvi drew impassioned, fully committed playing in all four movements: the beginning and end of the Andante were almost unbearably tender, while elsewhere the darkened, pathos-tinged colouring caused the shadow of Tchaikovsky to loom large.

BARRY MILLINGTON

WIGMORE HALL RECITALS

Reunion of note

There are few better ways of turning yourself into a living legend than by going to live abroad for a decade or two: the clarinetist Gervase de Peyer has been working in America for 20 years and has now returned at last to Britain to settle — and to celebrate his 70th birthday.

Sixteen years with the London Symphony Orchestra, a founder member of the Melos Ensemble, a close friend and colleague of the Amadeus Quartet: these are some of the things he had to celebrate at a concert at the Wigmore Hall. And Norbert Brainin and Martin Lovett of the Amadeus were there, with Ralph de Souza and Garfield Jackson of the Endellion.

Their performance of the Mozart Clarinet Quintet seemed a time capsule of a style of playing almost vanished, except on record. There was the fragile sweetness of Brainin's violin, the passing sobs of *portamento*, the gentle holding back at cadence points — to some poignant, to others bordering on the cliché.

De Peyer's playing retains the fluency and flair for which it has always been renowned. His quiet playing is satiny, his bolder, louder passages penetrating and ready. The transition from one to another can be abrupt. The greatest pleasure

was the suppleness and graciousness of conversation between them. This compensated for the four-square rhythmic definition and some bumpy intonation. Gwyneth Pryor joined Brainin (now with viola) and de Peyer for Mozart's *Kegelstatt* Trio between the two quintets.

Only 24 hours before this sepiatinted evening, still more extraordinary sounds had been heard at the Wigmore. Imagine, if you will, Anne Sofie von Otter singing *The Road to Mandalay* in a ripe East End accent. Nor for nothing did the Swedish mezzo live in London for five years of her childhood.

This startling event took place as the fourth encore in her recital of Norwegian and Swedish songs, with a little Schumann and a long, single ballad by Schubert.

One only longed for more Nordic repertoire after the interval — some von Koch, perhaps, some Sibelius — but it was not to be. Von Otter and her pianist Bengt Forsberg daringly took on the 19 stanzas of Schubert's *Viola* before turning to Schumann. The voice opened out at last to its full refulgence in Schumann's settings of Rückert's poem, *Rose, Meer und Sonne*.

HILARY FINCH

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials — not the first things to spring to mind when you think about sending someone a gift. But for mothers in Bosnia who have almost nothing left with which to care for their children, these basic essentials mean the world. And they can be found in each baby box sent with a donation in Britain to a despairing mother in Bosnia, via British charity Feed the Children.

As peace in Bosnia is trumpeted in the corridors of power, a young mother sheltering in a tractor cabin in north-west Bosnia knows what the really important issue is tonight: how to keep her shivering and vulnerable toddler safe from disease and infection in appalling conditions and biting cold.

She has been living on the edge of life since October, when she was forced to flee her home in Velika Kladusa — with only five minutes to pack a carrier bag — and huddle with 22,000 other people along five kilometres of road in Klupjensko valley.

She is one of 14,000 mothers in Bosnia and Croatia who have received baby boxes full of the basic essentials they need to help protect their children from the filthy conditions in which they are surviving: clean nappies and baby cream to soothe burning nappy rash, soap to wash urine-soaked babygro and dirty nappies, antiseptic for cuts, disinfectant for the muddy floors of their shelters...

lessness surrounding these mothers and children, saying 'we know how hard it is for you, we care what happens to you,' explains Gaynor Jones, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Feed the Children. "They take it very personally."

"I wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box."

So do the individuals who take up Feed the Children's invitation to send a message along with their £30 donation. "Seeing those mothers in Bosnia on the television, clinging to their children for dear life in appalling conditions, I wanted to do more than send a donation," says Karin Weatherup, who has sent a baby box. "I wanted to send a message. I wanted to say to the mother opening the box, 'You're doing an amazing job, and my family think about you every night'. Feed the Children enabled me to do that, for which I'm very grateful."

Julie Griffin was drawn to the idea of sending a baby box to Bosnia for the same reason. "I just wanted to send some love with all the practical



Despite the Dayton peace initiative, mothers and young children in Bosnia trying to rebuild their lives need even the most basic essentials to succeed.

A message from you this winter would mean so much to a Bosnian mother.

things in a baby box. It was that personal involvement which really appealed to me."

Does peace in Bosnia make a difference?

In many areas of Bosnia, peace simply means that the shooting has stopped. But the problem is that whole communities have been chased from their homes, and are either too afraid to return or will find only a scorched patch of earth or bombed-out shell where their home used to be.

"There are many truly lost people," says Stewart Crocker, Deputy Director at Feed the Children. "We must ensure they are not forgotten amidst the news of the Dayton peace initiative. Their needs are tremendous, especially those of the mothers and young children. They are trying to move forward, trying to rebuild their lives."

"People in Britain can take one major worry from these mothers by giving them what they need to care for their little ones — a Feed the Children baby box."

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LAW

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When children kill

□ This week the power of the Home Secretary to set the life sentences on the two boys who killed the toddler Jamie Bulger will be challenged in the courts.
□ ALLAN LEVY, QC, looks at the powers of the Government to jail children who kill.

The recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights stripping the Home Secretary of his power to decide when convicted murderers aged under 18 should be released provoked a storm. In its wake have come more considered reactions, both from Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Justice, the law reform group. Mr Rifkind concentrates on the European trial system, and Justice has produced detailed recommendations on the consequences for domestic law.

The landmark decisions of the Strasbourg court came in two cases, known as *Hussain and Singh*. The European Court found that in breach of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights, each of the men, who had been sentenced to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure, was unable to have the lawfulness of his continued detention reviewed by a court.

The sentence of the English court involves two elements: a fixed tariff period to reflect the requirements of retribution and deterrence, and an indeterminate term of detention justifiable only in order to protect the public.

In 1978 Abed Hussain, then aged 16, was convicted of the murder of his younger brother, aged two. The Home Secretary set the tariff period at 15 years. The other case concerned Prem Singh, who in 1973, then aged 15, was convicted of the murder of a 72-year-old woman. He was released on licence in 1990, but this was subsequently revoked.

Each man's attempts to obtain release through the Parole Board and judicial review failed. In 1994 the Home Secretary, making the final decisions, agreed that Hussain should be transferred to open prison conditions but, against the board's recommendation, refused to release Singh.

The European Court's decision does not relate to the initial minimum period that the Home Secretary sets, known as the "tariff", although there is support from senior judges for this period to be set by the courts and not by the executive. The court's decision does relate, however, to the indeterminate period of detention that follows the tariff and is based on a test of how danger-



Robbie Thompson, left, and Jon Venables, jailed for the murder of Jamie Bulger, a case that made news around the world



ous the offender is to society. The Parole Board advises on when an offender no longer poses a risk; but again the Home Secretary makes the final decision.

The European Court decisively found that the procedures and powers of the Parole Board, the remedy of judicial review and the decisions of the Home Secretary did not satisfy Article 5 in that they did not provide a court or "court-like" body before which the lawfulness of detention could be reviewed and, where appropriate, release ordered. It would seem to be only a matter of time before a future case applies this logic to the tariff period also and sweeps away the residue of the Home Secretary's powers.

This would then directly affect the sentences passed on the two children who killed Jamie Bulger in 1993 and whose sentence will be the subject of judicial review this week.

The decisions of the nine Strasbourg judges, including Sir John Frelund, the UK representative, predictably produced an outcry. Tory backbenchers protested about

European "meddling" and John Redwood, the former Cabinet minister, said that our relationship with the European Court should be looked at again and parliamentary sovereignty and British judicial independence should be asserted "rather more strongly". Others pointed to the need to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

After the ruling in *Hussain and Singh*, and also apparently with the controversial McCann case concerning the shooting in Gibraltar of three IRA members in mind, Mr Rifkind has now put forward suggestions to improve the Strasbourg system. He suggests a new procedure of informal consultation between the countries of the Council of Europe before judges are even nominated so that those eventually appointed will have, for example, wide enough experience.

Once selected, judges should concentrate more on the background and local practices and precedents of a country involved in a case. A

further suggestion is that during the course of hearings the court should make clear the particular areas it wants covered and the points on which it may be considering ruling against a particular party.

To coincide with the decisions in *Hussain and Singh*, a working party report by Justice called *Children and Homicide* concentrates on the no less pressing need for domestic reform. Focusing on the appropriate treatment for children who commit, or who are accused of, homicide, the report recommends a single offence of homicide applicable to all children who kill.

Sentencing would be left to the discretion of the judiciary, based on the offender and the offence. Options would include fixed-term sentences, indefinite custody, mental health disposals and, exceptionally, community sentences. Release decisions, in line with *Hussain and Singh*, would be made by an independent judicial body and based on whether detention continued to be necessary to protect the public or for purposes of rehabilitative treatment. Indeterminate sentences would be subject to annual review by the same panel.

In a wider context, the report also recommends that consideration be given to raising the age of criminal responsibility and that the trial of a child under 14 for homicide be conducted in private by a specially trained panel of a judge and two magistrates.

While the potential for decision-making in respect of juvenile justice in Strasbourg is widening, the powers of the Home Secretary are contracting, giving him, one hopes, more time to carry out much-needed reform.

■ The author was a member of the Justice working party.

Aux armes to defend the revolution



Jane Betts: new role

Soon after the appointment of Jane Betts as the Law Society's new secretary-general, I conveyed the news to a leading member of the legal sisterhood. She seemed underwhelmed. I chided her: "The first woman secretary-general! Bollinger time, surely?" Her face said otherwise; and one could see why. An appointment of this kind sabotages a core message of the professional feminist — that fogeyist old bastions such as the Law Society are male conspiracies to exclude and put down women.

The reality, of course, is the precise opposite. Anyone who has sat on an appointment committee with the great or the good has experienced the almost pathetic eagerness to shortlist any candidate with pretensions to membership of a "minority".

But no one would suspect either the vice-president of the Law Society or myself of soggy liberalism and everyone will know, therefore, that the new secretary-general has been chosen purely on merit.

What particular message does a female secretary-general send to the community at large? It is the same message given by the election of Margaret Thatcher to the leadership of the Conservative Party, or the promotion of Barbara Mills to be Director of Public Prosecutions or the appointment of Stella Rimington as head of MI5. There are no barriers to the advancement of women apart from those they choose themselves or those that are inherent in their biology.

Mrs Betts comes to the Law Society in stirring times. I have described John Hayes, her predecessor, as the society's Sir Humphrey; but that description was scarcely accurate. Sir Humphrey, after all, had his Hacker to contend with while Mr Hayes had only to deal with an ineffectual council which met eight times a year and a president who had hardly commenced his period of office before he began to contemplate its termination. During his nine-year tenure, John Hayes was a shrewd and able grand vizier to a succession of sultans enfeebled by the sheer brevity of their reign. A strong secretary-general was assisted, too, by the Law Society's culture of all-good-chaps-together and dread of public dissension. A president who squared up to the bureaucracy could certainly not reckon on the enthusiastic support of his council colleagues.

Mrs Betts will inherit few surviving conventions. The Buggins's turn system of presidential elections may eventually reinstate itself. But there can never be a full

restoration of the ancient regime. Some new maverick will always lurk in the wainscoting. Gone also are the days when senior staff members needed to take account only of the wishes of the secretary-general and could brush aside those of the elected office-holders. After the July 1995 revolution, such attitudes are visibly perilous for those who hold them.

In dealing with a Law Society and its novel culture of reform and self-examination, the new secretary-general has the advantage of carrying no baggage. She has no bureaucratic empire which is "hers". She has no incubus of accumulated policies and attitudes.

Neither will Mrs Betts have to deal with the kind of situation John Hayes encountered when he was appointed in 1986. In his own day he also was a slasher and burner (as I have been called) and by all accounts the society sorely needed the managerial changes he introduced.

This July, 15 of the 60 elected members' seats on the Law Society council come up for re-election. If they are contested, there is a strong possibility that we shall see an influx of supporters of the new office-holders. In that event, can the profession hope to see an end to all the months of turbulence? Will the new secretary-general's life be less exciting than she had feared? Unlikely. In every revolution a Mirabeau is soon followed by a Robespierre. After my election last July, I warned my council colleagues that if I were seen to be obstructed, it would not be long before sans culottes to the left of me emerged. And so it is proving.

The society is now confronting a proposal to force the entire council to resign and submit to a "general election". Even more alarming is a movement to split the society into two entities: one to be devoted to regulation and performance of statutory functions, the other to act purely as a trade union. This, of course, is a crazy idea because any conceivable new body that was purely regulatory would treat solicitors with more rigour and tax them more for doing so. The new representative body, on the other hand, would go the eventual way of all splinter factions in British politics.

The first task of the new secretary-general, therefore, will be to assist the president in defending the society against those who (with the best intentions) would destroy it at the very moment that it looked like reforming itself. Strange times, indeed.

■ The author is president of the Law Society.



MARTIN MEARS

If you've got it, spend it

THE Charity Commission has issued a draft guidance leaflet on the retention of income reserves by charities for general discussion. The commission is concerned that money raised from the public is spent on the charitable purpose for which it was given and not simply added to the charity's resources.

The draft has several new suggestions, including a possible requirement that a charity should have reserves equivalent to between only three months' and two years' expenditure.

Peter Clarke of Taylor Joynton Garrett says: "It seems clear that the commission's policy is that if a charity receives money, its primary obligation is to spend it."

Z-star

Z-CARS and Dr Who are among TV programmes that Sue Stapely, the Law Society's outgoing public relations chief, worked on before turning to the law, according to a glittering CV provided by the PR agency Fishburn Hedges, her new employers.



Sue Stapely: glittering CV

Senior Law Society figures have complained that the friction generated by Martin Mears's election to the presidency would lead to the departure of some very talented members of staff.

As if to support this view, the page-long biography chronicles her career as a family law specialist, politician and media personality in unerring detail.

"Her limited spare time," it concludes, "is devoted to renovating a Georgian mill house, enjoying the theatre and driving fast cars. She recently produced a fundraising concert for Amnesty International and Justice."

Barefaced

SOUTHWARK Crown Court has witnessed an event of such cheek that it puts the recent total eclipse of the Moon into the shade.

Mr Justice Phillips was passing sentence on a female defendant when she shouted: "Is this what you want, Wiggly?" before, according to *In Brief* magazine, dropping her underwear and "present[ing] his Honour with the fullest moon seen in Southwark for some time".

■ IN A year likely to be dominated by Lord Woolf, the Association of District Judges has made a canny choice for president. District Judge Dick Greenslade has been working on procedural reform — for Lord Woolf's inquiry into access to justice.

Aids aid

A CAMPAIGN to make the ordinary solicitor more aware of the specific legal problems faced by HIV-positive people and Aids sufferers is one of a series of new initiatives being

planned by the Immunity Legal Centre. The London centre, which is the only legal centre in the country specifically dedicated to helping people with HIV or Aids, is recruiting a new head of legal services whose role will be to help to boost the centre's profile. Solicitor-training programmes, parliamentary lobbying and group actions are among the new ventures the centre hopes to begin.

Ceri Hutton, its director, says: "We help 2,000 people a year. But that number is going up all the time."

Ride on

A LAW firm is putting on one of London's biggest contemporary equestrian art exhibitions of the year. The show begins at Collyer-Bristow's gallery in Bedford Row, Bloomsbury, on May 1, and a percentage of the sales of pictures will go to the British Equestrian Olympic Fund.

Jeremy Levison, the partner who founded the gallery, says: "Through our sports sponsorship practice, we made contact with the fund." The fund aims to raise £250,000 to provide the best facilities and back-up for Olympic teams going to Atlanta in July.

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A longer day for lawyers

Joel Parkes on
why the average
court day is not
fair to prisoners

It does not take a genius to see that overcrowded prisons and jails are having a profound effect on our courts. Michael Howard's latest proposal to reduce the numbers of people serving sentences because of unpaid fines is but one example of attempts made by the Home Office and various levels of the judiciary system to deal with the finite resources of our prisons.

The latest revelations about the seemingly liberal use of cautions for offenders should be looked at in this light. Whether or not judges are affected by this problem when it comes to their sentencing policy is a question that has to be asked.

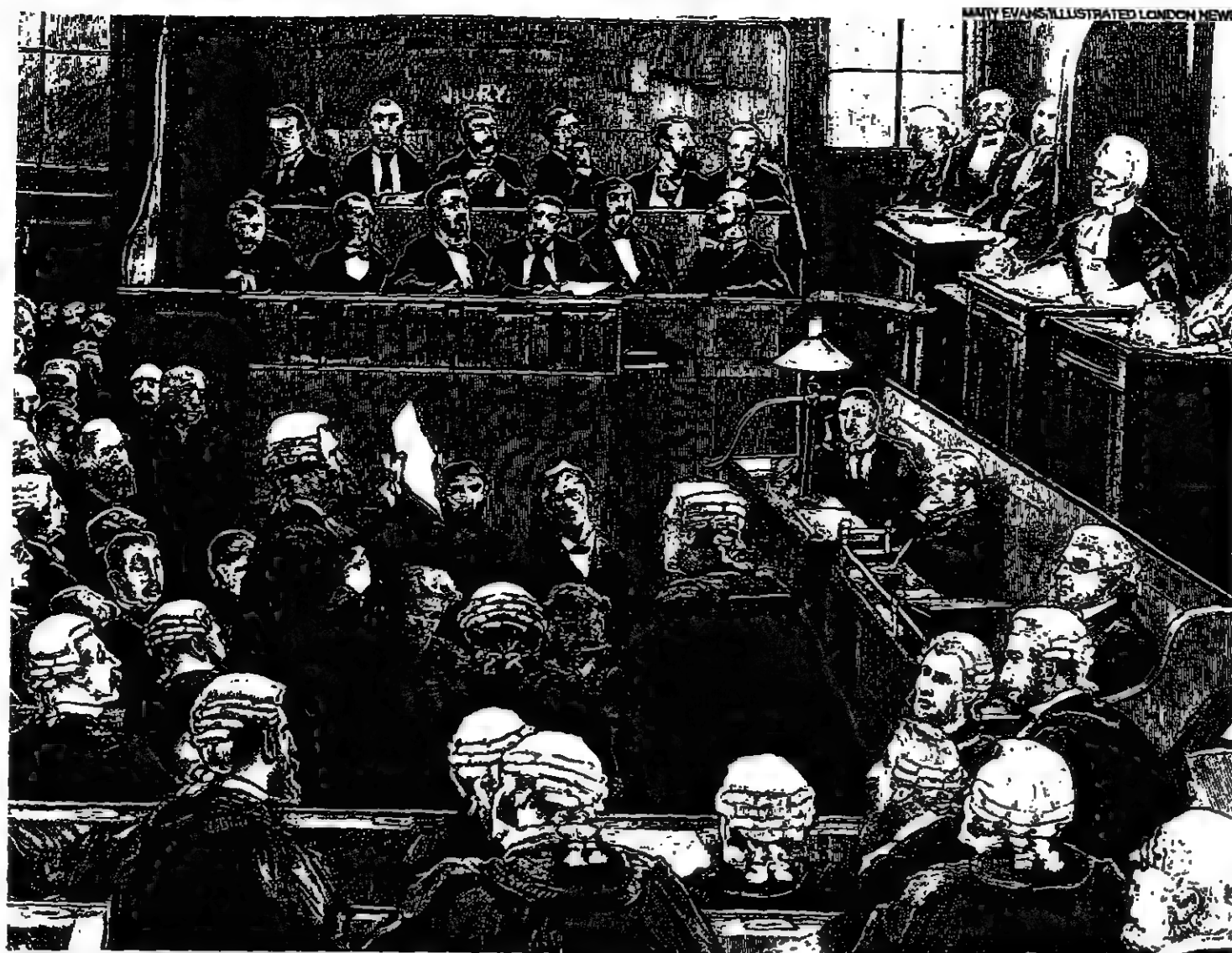
Do judges actually let the knowledge that the prisons are full affect their decisions when they give suspended sentences? Is the deterrent value of sentencing slowly being diminished? If so, what can be done?

One answer the authorities do not seem to discuss is the extension of court hours. As a paralegal, I spend a lot of my time in courtrooms and I am constantly amazed by what the legal profession considers to be a long, hard day.

Current practice in Crown Courts is to have any hearings listed for a 10am start. Any lawyer will tell you that 10am usually means 10.30am, which often turns into 10.45. Minor delays caused by the late arrival of witnesses, judges being delayed in traffic and barristers being locked into last-minute conferences push the starting time back even further.

When proceedings do start, they usually go on until 1pm, then break for lunch for an hour. Back in court at two and on until four or half past four is a typical afternoon. The average court day is five hours long. This is inefficient and against the interests of justice. Running the courts is a huge exercise. In England and Wales, about 30,000 magistrates sit at 600 courts to deal with 1.39 million defendants a year. In the Crown Courts, 1,600 circuit judges, recorders and assistant recorders deal with 125,320 defendants throughout 65 Crown Court centres.

If court times were extended by only two hours a day, 40 per cent



A case at the Old Bailey last century: court interiors may be less crowded now, but delays are as long as ever because court hours are too short

more cases would go through the system. That would cut by 40 per cent the number of people sitting in prisons on remand awaiting trial, a significant reduction in the overall number of people in jail. The cost of extending court times (theoretically a 9am start and a 6pm finish) would have to be weighed against the ensuing costs of building more prisons to accommodate a growing prison population.

But that is just the financial calculation. The gains in justice to those who are innocent and awaiting trial in remand is incalculable. The effect of a potentially reduced prison population on sentencing policy is impossible to measure; but it can safely be assumed that it would have some influence.

In the profession of law there

seems to be a willingness to believe in intransigence. Law is like any other academic pursuit: it should benefit from fresh approaches to old problems. But people in law react with disproportionate caution to any such ideas.

An official of the Lord Chancellor's Department conceded that the idea had merit but that it was "doomed to failure" because of the overwhelming prospect of judicial rejection. But this is rejection of a personal, rather than an academic, nature.

Extending court times is not a popular idea in the legal profession, but why should the popularity of an idea be the judge and jury of its chances for im-

plementation? Why is it that so many people abhor the idea of extra time in court? Though some stipendiary magistrates sit on Saturdays, the idea of extending Crown Courts to Saturday sittings meets with almost universal distaste. The reasons vary. One barrister even told me that Saturday sittings in Crown Courts were objectionable because that was the day on which he played rugby.

Chambers clerks, solicitors and various members of the Law Society all react to the concept of extended sitting times, on any day of the week, with a cautious and grudging admission that, though the idea might work on paper, there were "too many personal considerations".

Alex Carlisle, a Liberal Demo-

crat MP, remembers when courts did work on Saturdays but, like many others, he believes that there would be too many obstacles to such a plan in today's legal world. Again, it seems, personal considerations come into the equation.

But does personal comfort outweigh the maxim that justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done? And what does this lack of willingness to sacrifice for the sake of justice within the legal profession say about our legal system?

In the light of recent revelations about the secrecy and questionable tactics of Whitehall, as revealed by the Scott report, can the legal profession sit back, arms folded, and shake its head with dismay at such unethical behaviour?

Under a savage influence

What can the College of Law expect from its new boss, asks Edward Fennell

The appointment, announced today, of Professor Nigel Savage as the new £100,000 a year chief executive of the College of Law looks like a typical Establishment ploy to disarm its critics by absorbing them.

As the head of Nottingham Law School since 1989, Professor Savage stirred up the complacent world of legal education by creating a hard-edged, commercially astute institution which aligned itself directly with the needs of the profession.

In forging this new approach Professor Savage overturned the traditional model as embodied by the College of Law.

The college, which used to provide two thirds of the country's legal education, was already on the defensive because of the creation of a free market in legal education. But Professor Savage added to the college's unease by challenging the cosy relationship which it enjoyed with the Law Society. His argument was that, as regulator of professional standards, the Law Society should have no interest in the college. Launching a frontal assault on the status quo, Professor Savage

the time has come to stop being on the defensive and to start building on its considerable strength."

Professor Savage is quick to dismiss the idea that he will simply repeat what he's already done in Nottingham. There, he aimed specifically for the "quality end" of the market and targeted his services at the top City firms. When he takes over at the College of Law in the autumn he acknowledges that he must serve the mainstream.

He says: "The City is a major employer of young lawyers but we have to cater for medium-sized and high street firms as well."

Within his first year, he aims to create a clear vision of the role of the college. Though the basic menu of courses — the Common Professional Examination course for non-law graduates and the Legal Practice course which leads to the final qualification — will remain intact, Professor Savage wishes to examine the scope for making a wider provision.

Already the college has put in a bid to provide foundation education for barristers. Success in that field would instantly broaden the base of the college's course services.

Two further issues, however, will be of particular interest to him. First, the need for lifelong learning. "Solicitors go through a well-established progression from trainee to partner and into management. Perhaps we should be providing training for each of those stages in a systematic way."

Secondly, there is the overseas dimension. "If legal services are international then maybe our legal education should be as well. We already have strong links with Commonwealth countries and with America. We need to think about how we can build on those in order to develop a global reputation."

The fact that the college is an exclusively graduate institution leads him to speculate on whether it could become the equivalent of Harvard Business School with an unrivalled capability for research as well as teaching.



Radical Professor Nigel Savage

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For further information, please contact Hugh Kelly on 0171 588 7878 or write to him at Kellyfield Consulting, Second Floor, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET (fax: 0171 588 7020). Alternatively, send your C.V. directly to David Fowler, Personnel Director, Wilde Sapte, 1 Fleet Place, London, EC4M 3WS.

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You should have:

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This is an opportunity to take a leading position in the Moscow office of an international law firm, whilst becoming involved in the most challenging transactional work available in the CIS. Partnership and long term career development are on offer, as is a highly competitive remuneration package.

To find out more about the role in complete confidence, please contact Christopher Sweeney or Seamus Hoar on 0171-405 4062 (0181-960 4527 or 0171-403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail christopher@qdrec.demon.co.uk



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Senior International Legal Adviser And Negotiator

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You should have a minimum of 5 years' legal oil and gas experience and have first-hand knowledge of upstream exploration and production, preferably with an international

bias. Technical ability of itself is not sufficient. You should be commercially minded, with initiative, and keen to take an active part in a successful and dynamic business environment. This is an excellent opportunity with a high level of responsibility and with scope for further advancement.

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For further details, including salary and benefits, please contact Sonya Rayner at Chambers & Partners, Professional Recruitment, 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET (tel: 0171 606 9371; fax: 0171 600 1793), who is handling this assignment.



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Please send full cv, stating salary, ref FS60402, to NBS, 10 Arthur Street, London EC4R 9AY

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Qualified solicitor. Good academic background with eighteen months to two years' post qualification experience gained in private practice or industry.
- ◆ Broad company/commercial experience. Technical excellence combined with commercial and practical approach.
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- general commercial experience, in particular, contracts and joint venture work;
- a team orientated approach, with commercial flair and an interest in the media industry and its new technology;
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For further information in complete confidence, call Daniel Richards on 0171 831 2000 or write to him enclosing your CV at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, fax: 0171 831 6662. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Michael Page and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Michael Page.



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Which International Law Firm...

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The Government shall pay the Consultant \$15,000 for the three month contractual period. If the period is extended, the Government shall pay the sum of \$1,250 per week. The Government shall pay expenses at the rate of \$1,000 per week and provide Business Class airfares at the beginning and end of term. The Consultant shall be provided with office accommodation and office services.

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In response to demand from both clients and candidates and as the first step in a structured regional expansion, we are delighted to announce the opening of our Manchester office. The Manchester team, Andrew Russell and Lindsay Sandford, will service the recruitment needs of candidates and clients in the North of England complementing our London team of consultants. Below is a selection of our vacancies nationwide.

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COMPANY/COMMERCIAL TO £42,000
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For further information on Northern vacancies, please contact Andrew Russell or Lindsay Sandford (both solicitors) on 0161-238 4908 (01605-65420) evenings/weekends or write to them at Portland Tower, Portland Square, Manchester M1 3JF. Confidential fax 0161-238 4901. E-mail: andrew@zmb.co.uk
For London vacancies, please contact Yasmin Phillips, Jonathan Brenner or Miranda Smyth (all qualified solicitors) on 0171-377 0510 (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends) or write to them at 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PT. Confidential fax 0171-347 5174. E-mail: yasmin@zmb.co.uk

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Athens should inspire champions

Ajax offer tired excuse before demanding test

The discerning English football follower, one who can appreciate that the speed and competitiveness of the game here does not necessarily make it the most attractive in Europe, will need all his faculties tomorrow evening.

Kicking off at 7.30 British time, and the only football screened live on television that day, one can watch Ajax experience their most searching test. The European Cup holders must come from a goal down in the intimidating arena of the Olympic Stadium in Athens against the unexpected semi-finalists, Panathinaikos. Those watching on ITV will doubtless have an ear tuned to Radio 5 Live, which will be covering the race for the FA Carling Premiership title: Newcastle United are at home to Southampton and Manchester United entertain Leeds United.

In terms of depth and aspiration, there is still no comparison between Manchester United and Ajax. The British club can afford to have its scouts in Athens. United are one of the predatory band of rich European clubs said to be courting Edgar Davids, the dynamic Ajax midfielder player, and they are also reportedly interested in Giorgos Donis, the pacy Panathinaikos winger, who could yet be the overseas player needed to fill their vacancy on the right.

The night in Athens usually burns, from terrace fires if not from the gods above. The teenagers of Amsterdam, having surrendered their 19-match unbeaten European record to the wily counter-attackers from the Greek capital when they lost to a late goal at home, will be examined for nerve and heart and physical fitness.

Louis van Gaal, their mentor and coach, breathed defiance two weeks ago, saying



ROB HUGHES
Overseas Football

that only a fool considered the contest over — but now? "It's over," Van Gaal said yesterday. "We are running out of gas. It has been an exhausting season, with a lot of injuries, and I would not give us a 30 per cent chance of getting through to the final."

Believe that and you would believe anything. This is the team, a year on and a year more experienced, that last season, three times destroyed AC Milan. Yes, Ajax are tired, so tired that they lead the Dutch league by five points with only three games to play. It is true that many of the players have had two full years without a break because they perform for the national team, but 73,000 fanatics in Greece's national stadium should inspire rather than daunt them.

Ajax have to outwit a team schooled defensively by Juan Ramón Rocha, who was born in Argentina, with a Polish goalkeeper, Jozef Wandzik, and a Polish striker, Krzysztof Warzycha, who penetrated their defences two weeks ago.

In 11 European games this season, the Greek champions have lost only once, scored just 13 times but conceded a miserly four goals. Watching Ajax trying to open up this contest will be intriguing, to say the least.

Meanwhile, in Nantes, Juventus hope to make power and might, and apparently bottomless coffers, tell against the French. Juventus are two goals up after the first leg, but they threw away six weeks' work, six consecutive Serie A victories, by surrendering 3-0

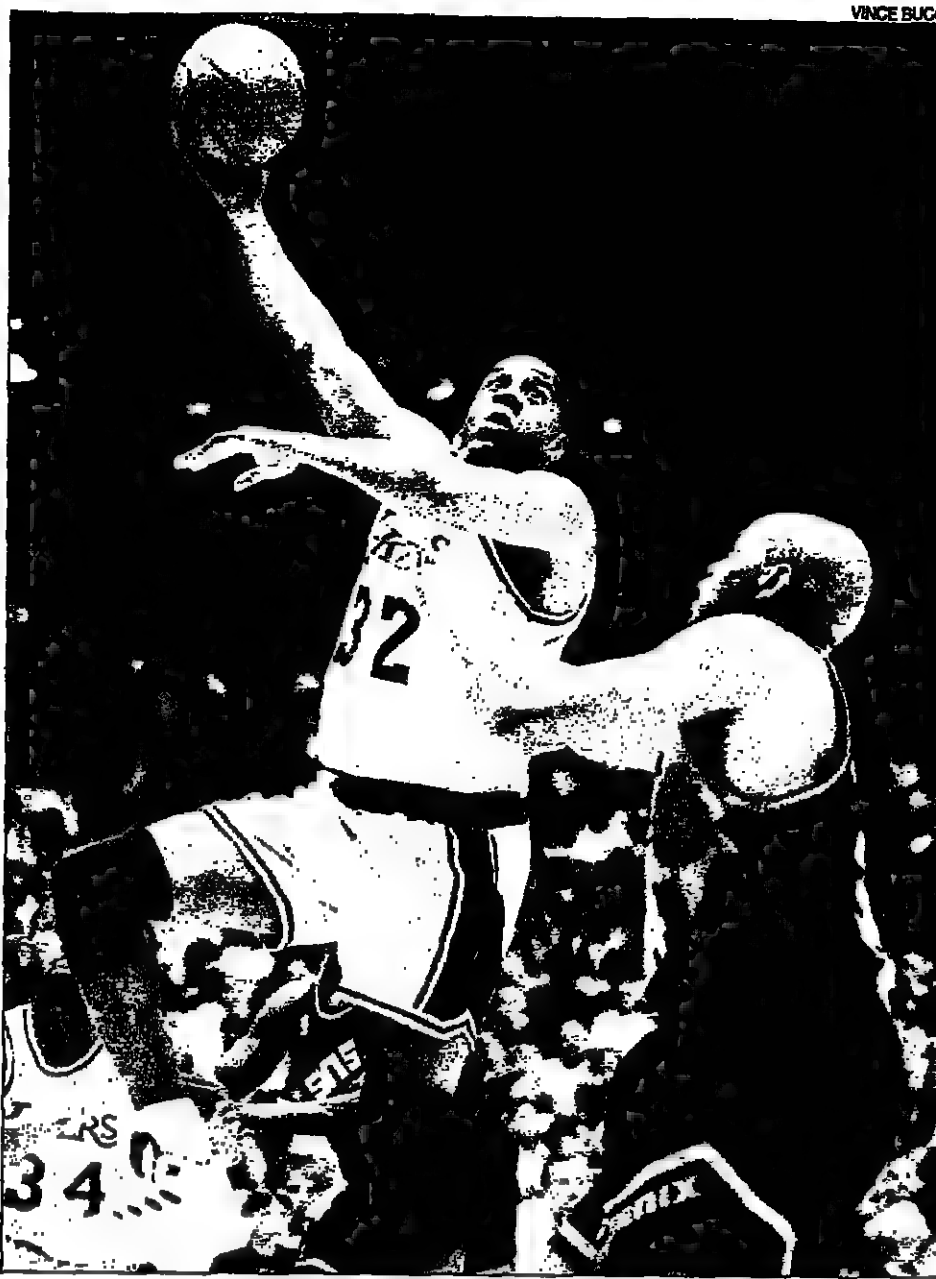
at home to Sampdoria last Saturday.

Enrico Chiesa, the Sampdoria forward, who is pressing for a place in the Italy side for European championship, scored once and created the other two goals, but the sounds emanating from the Juventus players give the game away: their minds, their priorities, their big bonuses, are geared to the European Cup, the final of which takes place in Rome on May 22.

Compounding the problems for Nantes is an ankle injury to Japhet N'Doram, their Chadian goalkeeper. Furthermore, Reynald Pedros, the left winger, is suspended, so it is hard to envisage victory for the French side.

However, the French involvement is enviable. In the three European competitions, France has three semi-finalists. Tonight, Bordeaux, thanks to yet another away goal from Christophe Dugarry, defend their lead against Slavia Prague in the UEFA Cup. On Thursday, in the Cup Winners' Cup, Paris Saint-Germain, also a goal to the good, entertain Deportivo La Coruña, whose Brazilian forward, Bebeto, returned with two reportedly sparkling goals in the Spanish league last weekend.

So France is engaged on all fronts. England can boast no involvement... but wait: Bobby Robson is a champion again. FC Porto, his club, have won the Portuguese league with several weeks and 14 points to spare.



Magic Johnson beats Charles Barkley, of Phoenix Suns, before being ejected from the game, which Los Angeles Lakers won 118-114, for bumping into the referee

Strong finish brings bronze

FROM RICHARD EATON
IN HERNING, DENMARK

ENGLAND won the bronze medal at the European badminton championships here yesterday with a 5-0 win over Russia. It was a commanding performance, in complete contrast to their 5-0 defeat by Denmark on Sunday. England played as though they did not believe that they could test a strong Denmark side, but they tackled Russia with commendable determination. Peter Knowles won 15-8,

15-2 against Andrei Antropov, a former world quarter-finalist. It was so impressive a performance that it made one wonder why Knowles, the England No 2, does not beat good players as regularly as he has in the past three weeks. He has most of what he needs to succeed, apart, perhaps, from consistent temperament. Joanne Muggeridge still has too little stamina, but she played with wrongfooting skill to win 11-6, 11-4 against Elena Rybkina, the only mother playing badminton at

this level and the heroine in February when Russia unexpectedly reached the Uber Cup finals. Simon Archer and Julie Bradbury won comfortably in the mixed doubles, providing just the start that England needed and failed to find against Denmark. "If we had been in the other group, I think we could have reached the final," Ciro Ciniglio, the England manager, said. "Next time, we should be, so I am particularly pleased with this bronze."

Get Smart illness is setback for Dixon

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

KAREN DIXON, a leading contender for the Great Britain three-day event team for the Olympic Games, has had to withdraw Get Smart, her top horse, from the Badminton Horse Trials next month, the main Olympic selection trial, because the 15-year-old gelding has a severe cough.

Although Dixon has a second Olympic contender in Too Smart, she had hoped to be selected with both horses. Under the new International Olympic Committee rules, there is now a separate team and individual contest and Dixon was in line for both.

Get Smart, a team silver medal-winner at the Games in Seoul in 1988, was the highest placed British horse (sixth) in Barcelona four years ago and won a team gold and individual bronze at the world championships in The Hague in 1994, his last three-day event.

"I am very disappointed," Dixon said yesterday, "but he is coughing badly and has now missed two preparatory outings. There's no point in running him at Badminton unless he is 150 per cent."

The Trials this year have attracted a high-quality field. The 107-strong entry includes Matt Ryan, of Australia, and Vaughan Jerreries, of New Zealand, the Olympic and world champions respectively. Lucy Thompson, of Ireland, the European champion, and Mark Todd, of New Zealand, a dual Olympic champion. Bruce Davidson, the winner last year, heads the United States contingent.

The British entry is led by the four members of the team that won the gold medal at the European championships last year: William Fox Pitt (Cosmopolitan and Loch Alan), Kristina Gifford (Midnight Blue and General Jock), Mary King (King William and Star Appeal) and Charlotte Bathe (The Cool Customer).

The prize-money at Badminton has again been increased, the winner this year receiving £24,000.

IN BRIEF

Tendulkar inspires triumph

INDIA beat Pakistan by 28 runs in a Sharjah Cup one-day cricket international in the United Arab Emirates yesterday. India made a record 305 for five and bowled out Pakistan for 277.

Sachin Tendulkar hit 118 and Navjot Sidhu 101 in a record second-wicket partnership of 231, helping India to pass their previous best one-day total of 299 for eight.

Dominic Cork was yesterday named England player of the year by Cornhill Insurance, the Test match sponsors. Roland Leferbre, the Glamorgan all-rounder, has been forced to retire because of injury.

Rusedski wins

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, of Great Britain, reached the second round of the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Carl-Uwe Steeb, of Germany. Tim Henman lost to Jeff Tarango, of the United States, 6-1, 6-4.

Hazlitt blow

Hockey: Simon Hazlitt, the Great Britain wing half, may miss the match against Argentina in the six nations tournament in Atlanta today with a hamstring injury. Britain meet South Korea tomorrow.

Seventh heaven

Bowls: Cyphers won the English Indoor Bowling Association fours championship for the seventh time at Melton Mowbray yesterday, beating Great Aycliffe 18-15.

Plans thawed

Ice hockey: Twenty clubs, omitted from the new Super League, are to set up their own competition, the two-division National League, starting in September.

Public inquiry

Rugby league: The Rugby Football League is to conduct an inquiry into recent public outbursts by players and coaches in which match officials have been criticised.

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Chambers are pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Fowler Q.C. as head of Chambers upon the retirement of Jeremy Lever Q.C.

Aidan Robertson has accepted an invitation to join Chambers upon completion of his pupillage. He is a former solicitor and fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, a contributor to the third edition of Wyatt & Daugherty's EC Law (1993) and is currently co-authoring the forthcoming second edition of Green's Commercial Agreements and Competition Law.

Chambers are also pleased to announce the appointment of Milly Ayliffe, a solicitor previously in the shipping and aviation finance department at Norton Rose, as Practice Manager.

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Masters collapse threatens Australian's position as world leader

Norman's seizure could be terminal



Andrew Longmore reflects on the global implications of a dramatic day at Augusta

WHEN he was a little boy, Greg Norman was frightened of the dark. That was hardly unusual. What marked him out was the test that he devised to conquer the fear. At night, he would turn off the light in his bedroom, plunge his room into darkness and then force himself to get from the door to the bed. He began by running, leaping into bed and pulling the covers over his head. Each night, he would try to go a little more slowly until, finally, he was able to walk across the room without fear.

At the age of 41, after one of the most spectacular collapses in sporting history, the little boy needs to devise another routine, to conquer the fear of winning. Winning, that is, when intangible assets such as pride, prestige and glory are at stake, not just another big pay cheque. It will not be easy.

Norman has \$40 million (about £26.5 million) in the bank, but in the United States, where defeat is a worthless currency, his reputa-

but his technique will need as much maintenance as his mind. Faldo, after all, has tinkered endlessly to devise the fail-safe swing, the swing that will not let him down when his shoulders, hands and stomach are as tight as rivets. While the overwhelming memory of one of the most extraordinary days in the 60 years of the Masters will be Norman's disintegration, the relentless strength of Faldo played a significant part too.

For the last six holes, it was Faldo who had the Masters to lose. Unlike Norman, the thought made him stronger. On the 13th fairway, faced with a 228-yard second shot to the green, Faldo hesitated over his club selection for several minutes, finally rejecting a five-wood and settling for a two-iron.

Norman watched, sensing the discomfort, sensing a chance, only to see Faldo drill his shot straight to the heart of the green. Smothering his own instinct to attack, on the advice of his caddie, Norman himself had played safe, laying up short of the green and forcing Faldo to make the shot.

Eyeball to eyeball, the Australian had lowered his gaze. His devil-may-care attitude, his love of speed, his passion for danger had been ruthlessly exposed in the most public theatre of all. James Bond had surrendered to the Russians.

Yet, the emotional fall-out was more complicated than that. The Americans were overwhelmed by a strange feeling. They felt sorry for the loser—genuinely sorry—and their sorrow poured down the smooth slopes of the Augusta National course and washed Norman away. Faldo, who did not have the heart to celebrate his own victory to the full, felt it, too.

Final scores 44

ation for failing on the big day has become unbearable. With 20 holes to go, Norman led the 1996 Masters by seven strokes. With six holes left, he trailed Nick Faldo by two, a swing of nine strokes in 14 holes. Where can he go from here? No lead will be safe.

Yesterday morning, Norman at least fulfilled the promise that he made at the press conference the previous night. He woke up in his multimillion-dollar home on Koke Sound, Florida, still breathing. Whether that will prove to be the consolation that he is looking for over the coming months is open to doubt. After his defeat, Norman took refuge in the big picture, just as Boris Becker, the unbeaten champion, had when losing to Peter Doherty at Wimbledon in 1987.

"No one got killed, I just lost a tennis match," Becker said then. "It's not the end of my world," Norman said now. "I lost the Masters, but my life will go on. I've got things I can look forward to. Maybe these hiccups I have inflicted on myself are meant for another reason. I don't know. There must be a reason."

Norman's books on Zen will help him with his perspective.



Norman, with the figure of Faldo looming behind him, sets out on his cataclysmic final round at Augusta

History of major near-misses makes defeat harder to bear

By MEL WEAR

on the rest of their travels. The next time will be a little easier for Faldo, a lot harder for Norman.

The general feeling is that, whatever optimistic noises he makes, this defeat will finish the world No. 1. Whereas he could do nothing about the Bob Tway bunker shot that cost him the 1986 PGA title, nor the chip that gave Larry Mize the 1987 Masters, this collapse was all his own work and it was not a pretty sight.

When he explained himself to the press, with his usual breezy confidence, only occasionally did a hint of self-doubt creep in.

"I'm a very philosophical about it," he said. "That's one of my strengths. You learn and you try to understand why and what happened, but sometimes, in a situation like today, I may not want to learn about this one."

"I am a winner. I'm not a loser in life. I'm not a loser in golf tournaments. I wish I could've won what Nick Faldo's won. I haven't, but I feel confident in my belief and my approach, to whatever I do, that I can do it." That is probably true, except that Norman has a flaw that just happens to be in the most dangerous area of all for a game played so largely in the shadowy recesses of the mind. This might be one fear that the little boy cannot conquer.

THE wounds of Greg Norman in the springtime splendour of Augusta National on Sunday were grievously self-inflicted, of that there is no doubt, but, over the years, outrageous fortune has sent more slings and arrows in his direction than any man should have to endure.

He has enjoyed a career that has seen him garner many of the game's greatest prizes he has been the world No. 1 longer than anybody in the ten-year history of the Sony world rankings; he has untold millions in the bank; he has wealth and fame and the contentment of a happy home life. But he also has a reputation as a golfer whose ability has surpassed his record in the tournaments that truly matter.

Seven times he has led going into the final day of a major. Only once has he gone on to win. In the Open Championship at Turnberry in 1986. That was the year he led after 54 holes in all four majors, an unlikely feat that has come to be known, cruelly, as the Saturday Slam. It is

an unhappy achievement that has served to praise him and mock him in equal measure.

In the years since, he has brought about his own demise, the most recent of them on Sunday. He seems to have had the curse of sporting suicide thrust upon him.

At Augusta in 1986, he led by a shot going into the last round and then bogeyed the 72nd hole to allow Jack Nicklaus to claim his last major title at the age of 46. In the same year, he led the US Open by one going into Sunday only to shoot 75 and finish six strokes behind Raymond Floyd.

In 1993, he led by a shot after three days in the US PGA Championship and a 69 put him in a play-off, only to miss a three-foot putt to hand victory to Paul Azinger. Last year, he shared the lead in the US Open, but a 73 left him two strokes adrift of Corey Pavin.

In all of those instances, he was, to a greater or lesser extent, responsible for his own demise—and yet Norman seems to be a man specially selected by Kismet to be its stool-pigeon, a player to whom the fates turn when looking for a victim.

His fourth fall from grace in the last season of so much and yet so little in 1986 came in the US PGA, when he had a four-shot advantage, tossed it away with a 76 and looked on in anguish as Bob Tway holed a greenside bunker shot on the last hole to win the prize from under his nose.

As though that was not enough, the next year, he suffered a similar fall at Augusta. He tied with Severiano Ballesteros and Larry Mize, then, in the third sudden-death play-off in Masters' history, he took Mize to the second extra hole, Ballesteros having three-putted the first to put himself out of the contest.

It seemed then that he might walk the final few yards to victory, but he was left to watch in horror as Mize chipped in from 30 yards to take the title. It was a cruel end, a conclusion that nobody should suffer more than once. To Greg Norman, it has become almost a way of life.

How the final round unfolded

1st: Norman, starting six strokes ahead, led from greenside bunker. Faldo's par four cut led to five.

Norman -12, Faldo -7

4th: Faldo saves par from a bunker. Norman goes over green, drops a stroke to lead by four.

Norman -11, Faldo -7

5th: Faldo fails to save par from bunker. Norman five shots clear again.

Norman -12, Faldo -7

6th: Faldo hits tee shot to four feet for birds to reduce lead to four.

Norman -12, Faldo -8

8th: Norman pulls second shot, manages par live. Faldo holes 18-foot birdie putt. Three behind.

Norman -12, Faldo -9

9th: Norman short of the green, chips to seven feet, misses putt. Faldo's birdie putt tips out from 30 feet.

Norman's lead down to two.

Norman -11, Faldo -9

10th: Norman pulls second shot, chips to ten feet, misses again. One ahead.

Norman -10, Faldo -9

11th: Norman's birdie putt tips out, misses three-foot return. Level.

Norman -9, Faldo -9

12th: Norman goes into the water, leading to a double bogey. Faldo's par takes him in front for the first time, by two strokes.

Faldo -9, Norman -7

13th: Norman holes from 14 feet for a birdie four, but Faldo matches him.

Faldo -10, Norman -8

15th: Norman close to chipping in for an eagle, but Faldo chips to two feet and both birds.

Faldo -11, Norman -9

16th: Norman hooks into the lake and drops two more shots. Faldo's par moves him four clear.

Faldo -11, Norman -7

18th: Faldo drives into bunker, finds the green and holes a 20-foot birdie putt to win by five strokes.

Faldo -12, Norman -7

Have you got the guts to read it?

10 ways to lose fat

SCIENTIFIC TRICKS TO LOSE FAT

THE ULTIMATE FITNESS TEST

SCIENTIFIC TRICKS TO LOSE FAT

BE (MUCH) BETTER THAN THE AVERAGE MAN

Update your wardrobe

Have perfect skin

MensHealth

MAY ISSUE ON SALE NOW

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

HERODOTUS

(b) A temple slave from the pagan world. "When I am engaged in creative cuisine with the garlic and olive oil, oh my best beloved, this kitchen is my temple and you are my herodotus. So wash the dishes."

ULTRAFIDIAN

(c) Going beyond faith. From the Latin *ultra* beyond + *fides* faith. "I suppose it would be ultrafidian to expect Christopher to arrive on time. So let us give him another five minutes and then start."

FELICIDE

(e) Killing a cat. From the Latin *felis* a cat + *-cide* the suffix from *occidere* to kill. "Mother, do you think it is safe for Ruth to play with Rover? After all, he is felicide."

NOSOPHETIC

(a) Producing disease, unhygienic, infected, unhealthy. From the Greek *noso* disease + *-phetic* to make. "Ah, how perfectly nosophetic!" is the proper exclamation to employ when the wealthy Featherstonshaughs, of whose possessions you are already insanely jealous, show you round their new fishpond/holiday cottage/Persian carpet/music centre, etc.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1.... Nf4; 2. Rxe6 (2. Bxd4 Bg2+)... Bg2+; 3. Rxe2 fxe2+; 4. Kgl Ne2+ and 5.... Nxd4 with an easy win.

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The miaow and the hiss

It's a Cat's Life. Radio 2, 9.00pm.

Willie Rushon does not try to ingratiate himself with cat-food manufacturers in his words-and-music *melange*. Proud possessor of a stray cat called Pushkin, he lists his favourite grub as tinned tuna, chicken and sparrow with added rat and goldfish and mouse pie. He is pulling our legs, of course, unlike the woman whose Burmese cat lives in a stud-house fitted out with curtains, double-glazing, thermostat central heating, and colour television. Dining out at the Ritz, Mary Archer asks the waiter to wrap the left-overs in silver paper for her to take home to her moggy. "Most embarrassing," says husband Jeffrey, the other half of the crosstalk act.

Venom: Snakes. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Not only is this the last of Jeremy Grange's frighteners about crawlers, stingers and biters, but also it is the most chilling of the lot. Compared with the snake, previous flesh-creepers such as scorpions and jellyfish are the most delightful of pets. Not everybody contributing to this final *Venom* feels as I do about serpents. There is a man who campaigns for equal rights for them, even the venomous kind; there is a woman who sounds genuinely sad when she says that there is no way the poor old snake can tell us if it is having a bad day; and there is the revealing tale of the snake who swallowed every solid part of a mouse except its fur—"a bloated bag of warm mouse soup".

Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo, 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whalley, incl. at 12.30-12.45pm NewsNow 12.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl. at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat and at 6.00 the Drive-In 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Clive Fenn 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Wendy Lloyd	All times in BST. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 World Today 7.30 Anything Goes 8.00 News 8.15 Call the Show 8.30 News 8.50 Songs for Children 9.00 News in German 9.15 Thirty Minute Drama 9.45 Good Books 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 In Good Voice 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsday 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Call the Show 12.00 Newsday 12.30 Meridian Field 1.00 News in German 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Today 11.45 Sport 11.50 News 1.55 Jazz 2.00 Outlook 2.30 Midday 3.00 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Midday 3.55 List 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Sport 4.55 Europe 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.10 World Today 6.25 Outlook 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Champion follows courage of his convictions to sixth major triumph Faldo reaps Master's reward

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA

IN THE clubhouse of the Augusta National Golf Club, where he attended the champion's dinner on Sunday night, Nick Faldo will have reflected on the extraordinary achievements of the day that was drawing to a close. Amid the excited buzz of conversation from the members in their green jackets, he must have marvelled at his own performance in winning his third Masters. No less, however, must have been his bewilderment at the stunning collapse of Greg Norman, who had been alongside him throughout the afternoon.

Yet Faldo, of all people, should have known that his victory in the sixtieth Masters would never be run-of-the-mill, because his victories in major championships rarely are. Faldo has an enormous talent to play golf and a scarcely smaller talent to be the central figure in events

Norman's seizure 46
Major near-misses 46

that are tinged with a significance that borders on the controversial.

It took 18 pars for Faldo to snatch victory at the Open Championship in 1987. In Faldo's first Masters victory, in 1988, Scott Hoch missed a tiny putt in the play-off and, at Muirfield in the 1992 Open, although Faldo birdied two of the last four holes to win, his victory is remembered by some as the Open at which John Cook missed a short putt on the 17th and then bogeyed the 18th.

Nothing matched the demeanour that both Norman and Faldo showed in the aftermath of one of the most astonishing afternoons seen here. At the tournament devised by Bobby Jones, the most gentlemanly of sportsmen, Norman gave a remarkable demonstration of grace under pressure. Rarely, if ever, can a man have endured such a calamity with such panache. Norman is the most gracious loser in sport, not just golf.



Ben Crenshaw leads the applause for Faldo, his successor as Masters champion, during the post-tournament presentations at Augusta

Though Faldo sometimes opens his mouth only to put his foot in it, on Sunday evening, he found a felicitous mixture of humility and compassion. His words fitted this occasion perfectly: "Greg is a credit to the game. I feel genuinely and honestly sorry for him. What he has been through is horrible. He has had a real rough ride. On the 18th green, I said to him 'I don't know what to say to you. I just want to give you a hug.'"

Faldo did not neglect to congratulate himself, as he deserved after scoring the lowest round — a five-under-par 67 — of the fourth and final day, but he did so with an assured touch that did not encourage thoughts of immortality. "I am sure it [Greg's collapse] is a major part of the story, but I strung together four good rounds and you can't take that away from me," he said. His words of comfort for the Australian and the sight of the men hugging each other on the last green after Faldo's five-stroke victory were made all the more poignant by the knowledge that they did not particularly like one another.

Faldo's sixth victory in a major championship confirmed again that, in matters to do with himself and his golf, he knows best. Many times, he has come to a crossroads in his career. At such times, the young man who would paint nail varnish on his thumbnails to ensure the correct putting grip, who would practise his putting on the lawn because that was the nearest he could get to fast greens, who walked away from a golf scholarship to a university in the United States to almost universal criticism, has known which turning to take and been proved right.

MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Total	Player	Open	US Open	US PGA	Masters
18	Jack Nicklaus (US)	3	4	5	6
11	Walter Hagen (US)	1	4	2	4
9	Ben Hogan (US)	1	4	2	2
9	Gary Player (SA)	1	1	1	2
8	Tom Watson (US)	1	1	0	2
7	Bobby Jones (US)	3	1	0	0
7	Arnold Palmer (US)	2	1	0	2
7	Gene Sarazen (US)	1	0	0	1
7	Sam Snead (US)	1	0	3	3
6	Nick Faldo (GB)	3	0	0	3
6	Lee Trevino (US)	2	2	2	0
6	Harry Vardon (GB)	2	0	0	0

Nicklaus also won two US Amateur Championships, Jones also won five US Amateur Championships and a British Amateur Championship; Sarazen also won a US Amateur Championship.

He was right in the mid-Eighties when, against conventional wisdom, he chose to rebuild his swing. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," was the general view. Faldo knew better. He knew that his swing caved in under pressure. Six major championship victories since he proved him right, as did his remarkably courageous par for victory in his singles at the Ryder Cup last September.

In 1994, Faldo made up his mind to spend more time on the United States tour to improve his career. He quit England in a flurry of hostile remarks about poor greens and an outburst against the press. Once again, he has been proved right. His play was as solid as a rock on Sunday. He hit the ball into the correct

places at the right time and the highlight of his afternoon may have been a two-iron from a difficult lie on the 13th. Faldo might not have won his sixth major had he stayed in Europe.

These days, Faldo is more relaxed. I know him well, but he retains the ability to take me by surprise. For years, he has been stony-faced on a golf course, seemingly putting everything into his concentration and acknowledging nobody. At The Players' Championship last month, walking to a tee, he saw me, looked startled and said: "Hello Mr Hop. How are you? All right?"

For Faldo, who will be 39 in July, this could mark the start of another period of dominance. The man who was no

better than 18-1 before the Masters is certain to be a very short price for the next few majors. He has the game, having added length to his arm and improved his putting. His physical fitness, courage and desire have never been in doubt. Of the Europeans, only Colin Montgomerie has contended as well in the two remaining major championships held on this side of the Atlantic. Montgomerie and Faldo have each taken part in one play-off for a US Open. Montgomerie lost in a play-off for the US PGA Championship last year while Faldo, the runner-up in the 1992 US PGA, got to within one stroke of joining Paul Azinger and Norman in a play-off for the same championship one year later.

Faldo has now passed the five major titles held by Severiano Ballesteros and is approaching Tom Watson's total of eight — the last of which was 13 years ago. Happily settled with Brenna Cepelak, his new companion, after two marriages, he is entering a new phase of his life that could bring him more major titles. He once spoke of how, in years to come, he wanted people to say "I saw Nick Faldo play golf. He was quite something". He is doing everything to make sure that happens.

England ready to risk jewel in rugby's crown

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) will discover today the degree of offence taken by its home union partners after the disruption of talks over a new five nations' championship. However, a statement from the five nations, while being critical of England's go-it-alone posture, is likely to stop short of punitive measures.

There is no doubting the anger that unites the Celtic nations against England. "The stupidity of one country is threatening the whole five nations' concept," one leading Welsh official said. Wales, Scotland and Ireland — ironically, all united with England on the top table at the launch in Cardiff of the 1999 World Cup campaign yesterday — seek equal shares in the new television contract, as in the past, while England believe that they are entitled to the majority share.

England's stance, though well lagged at the last television negotiations, three years ago, is also directly linked to the dispute between

Maybe so, but by then, there may be no five nations' either — the tournament that the southern hemisphere is so envious of and which English officials still describe as the "jewel in the crown".

There has been talk of expulsion and a possible knock-off effect for the 1999 World Cup, when England are due to host 13 games with both semi-finals staged at Twickenham. Such talk is somewhat wild, though each of the other unions could decide to break off international relations with England. There is a precedent for expulsion, that of France in the 1930s, for infringing the amateur regulations.

Though Wales are to host the World Cup arrangements for that tournament are in the hands of Rugby World Cup Ltd (RWC) and localised disputes should not necessarily impinge upon a global event. Tom Kiernan, the Irish chairman of the five nations' committee, said: "I don't think Ireland would be happy if circumstances arose in which they were asked to stage extra World Cup matches [if they were taken away from England], although I am sure all countries would if RWC asked them to."

England's contention is that a television package, involving both terrestrial and satellite companies, would benefit all. "We are in full support of the five nations," Hallett said, to which the other countries might suggest that England has a curious way of showing it.

World Cup draw 44

the RFU and its leading clubs. If the RFU can point to a substantial television deal (which would also help to defray the debt on the refurbished Twickenham), it would be a big incentive for clubs to remain under the union's umbrella.

Talks between the warring parties have yet to resume, but yesterday, the Welsh gave England's clubs a vote of confidence. "We are rock solid behind them," Peter Thomas, of Cardiff, the chairman of the Welsh first division clubs, said. "There has never been a stronger bond between us."

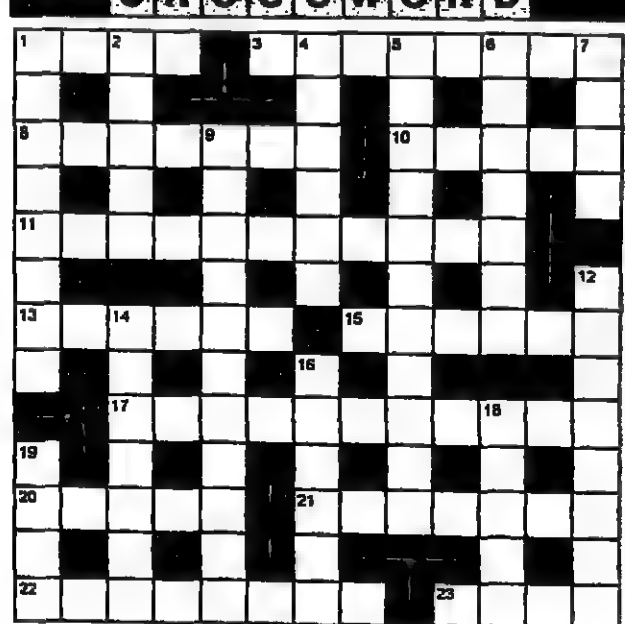
Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said a "substantial majority" of his committee had favoured single-handed negotiation over television rights. "The reason for England wanting more of the cake is that we have more mouths to feed," Hallett said. "More clubs, schools, student bodies, greater development and promotion costs. I believe every-one should negotiate their own way in this new high-tech era. In a few years' time, I am sure people will be surprised that each country did not handle business for itself."

ON MONDAY
IN THE TIMES



The Times cricket game returns this summer in an exciting new format and with a first prize of £10,000. Full details of how to play Interactive Team Cricket will be published in a 16-page guide on Monday. Make sure of your copy of The Times, the paper for cricket.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 157

ACROSS

- Hit with hand; part of shirt (4)
- Inclination, taste (for) (8)
- Sobbing (7)
- (Bird) settle to sleep (5)
- Ghastly sequence of events (6,5)
- Member of priestly tribe (6)
- Hard (gaze) (6)
- Diverted (eg in argument) (11)
- Scent (5)
- Distinguished musician (7)
- Top secret (4-4)
- Ancient stringed instrument (4)

DOWN

- Comprehensive (5-3)
- Stylish competence (5)
- Join the forces (6)
- Modern flea market (3,4,4)
- (Priest's) assistant (7)
- Dancer's frilly skirt (4)
- Pursue (topic) wearisomely (4,2,5)
- Symptoms indicating condition (8)
- Sticky (liquid) (7)
- Puzzles; end of day (cricket) (6)
- A shared purse (5)
- Spots; impetuous (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 756
ACROSS: 1 Jute 3 Untoward 9 Donor 10 Gatemans
11 Presage 12 Gang 14 Remote 16 UNESCO 18 Grab
19 Liberty 22 Haircut 23 Motel 24 Misnomer 25 Prow
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Rush aims for glorious swansong

BY PETER BALL

A MERSEYSIDE derby on a Tuesday in April does not, initially, have the usual tension, but, yesterday, both camps were insisting on the importance of the game, apparently without convincing themselves, let alone their listeners. For two strikers — Ian Rush, of Liverpool, and Duncan Ferguson, of Everton, however — the game may have vast significance.

The most prolific goalscorer in the history of the fixture with 25 goals, Rush will almost certainly be a substitute in the last derby of his career — provided that Everton, the club he supported as a boy, do not invite him to continue his career at Goodison Park. "I haven't ruled it out," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said mischievously.

Rush was circumspect, as always, before going to the Hillsborough disaster memorial service at Anfield yesterday. "I'll probably be on the bench, but it is always nice to be involved in big games and, as we haven't won for a bit, it would be nice to go out with a win," he said. "They like to get stuck in, and we like to play

football, so, hopefully, we can get stuck in and football will come out on top."

After playing twice in three days over Easter, Ferguson suffered a recurrence of his groin strain to set the alarm bells ringing at Goodison Park and at the Scotland headquarters. With Everton suffering an injury crisis among their strikers this week — Rideout is definitely missing and Amokachi is also facing a fitness test — Ferguson is likely to play.

"We're constantly in touch with the specialist, and the last time he saw us he felt there was no need for anything

more than what we are doing, which is resting between games," Royle said. "That was vindicated when he played two games in three days, but the worry has now come back a little bit, because he hasn't trained since the last game."

"We will certainly know by the end of the season which course we are taking — whether he carries on as he is, has a complete summer's rest, or something else. I'm in touch with Craig Brown [the Scotland manager] about it, and we'll have to wait and see, but the priority is Everton."

Strikers apart, both clubs claimed that there is much to

Ipswich to take action

IPSWICH Town are determined to prevent a recurrence of the crowd trouble that marred their victory over Norwich City at Portman Road on Sunday. David Sheephanks, the club chairman, said: "We must make sure that there is no repeat at our final home games, against Huddersfield and Millwall, or we might face serious trouble."

Around 1,000 supporters invaded the pitch after the 2-1

triumph which boosted the club's play-off ambitions and Gary Megson, the Norwich manager, has claimed that four of his players were physically assaulted.

"We are hoping that the allegations are not proven, but if they are, we will get to the bottom of the problem," Sheephanks said.

The Football Association is awaiting reports on the alleged incidents.

play for this evening, with Liverpool having an outside chance of the championship, and Everton's hopes set on a Uefa Cup place. Manchester United's defeat against Southampton on Saturday gave Liverpool limited optimism: Nick Faldo's triumph in Augusta the next day provided Rush and Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, with a timely example.

"We've still got an outside chance of the championship, we haven't thrown the towel in yet, it would be daft to do so," Evans said yesterday. "It's probably fair to say that we have more chance at this point than Faldo had when he went out on Sunday. It just goes to prove that it's never over until the fat lady sings — but first you've got to find the fat lady."

With Everton winning the four derby games since Royle took over, the balance in the contest has tilted, if not yet the balance of power in the land. "When I came here, we were eight points away from a safety position," Royle said. "Now, we're closer to them, and I expect to be up alongside them next season."

Overseas football, page 43

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Moscow exhibition renews squabble over treasure claimed by four nations

Stalin's Trojan loot on show at last

SOME of the greatest treasures of the ancient world — more than 250 items of Trojan gold — went on show in Moscow yesterday more than half a century after they were looted from defeated postwar Germany and hidden by Stalin.

"Schliemann's Treasure", a collection of gold jewellery and ornamental artefacts dating back more than 4,000 years, went on display at the Pushkin Museum, sparking international interest and outcry in equal measure.

The exhibition will be welcomed by historians and archaeologists around the world, who have had to wait since 1945 to see the collection. But its appearance will also intensify the furious custody battle between at least four countries and a number of private individuals who all claim ownership.

Among the items on display are two stunning golden diadems in almost perfect condition; dozens of delicately crafted earrings, necklaces and bracelets; a collection of ornamental axe-heads in polished stone and a magnifying glass and crystal lenses.

The collection was assembled by Heinrich Schliemann, a self-made German entrepreneur and adventurer who was fascinated from childhood by the story of Troy. After making his fortune he set off for Asia Minor in the 1870s to become one of the most celebrated and controversial archaeologists in history. He is credited with rediscovering the lost remains of Troy and unearthing spectacular finds.

However, he is also guilty of falsifying the results of his digs by placing the artefacts in Homeric Troy, when in fact they belonged to a Bronze Age civilisation more than 1,000 years older.

Schliemann smuggled his treasure out of Turkey without the consent of the Ottoman authorities, causing an ownership battle which has become more confused and heated a century later.

Richard Beeston in Moscow views the Schliemann Treasure, which is going on public exhibition for the first time since the end of the Second World War

The treasure was donated to Berlin's Museum of Prehistory and Early History, where it remained until the Second World War when valuable exhibits were stored in a concrete bunker near the city zoo.

After the fall of Berlin in 1945 the collection was captured by special "trophy" units of the Soviet Army which stole hundreds of thousands of valuables from Germany and brought them back to Russia.

Since then the German Government has insisted on the complete return of the Schliemann collection and hundreds of missing masterpieces from its museums and galleries.

"Under its international treaty obligations Russia is compelled to return all these items to their rightful owners," said Ernst-Jörg von Studnitz, the German Ambassador to Moscow, who cited the Hague Convention and a

recent bilateral agreement between Bonn and Moscow.

However, the picture is further clouded by rival claims from Turkey and Greece to the Schliemann gold.

The Turks insist that the collection was stolen and should be returned with other artefacts from Anatolia, while the Greeks claim that they are the cultural inheritors of the ancient Trojan civilisation.

Some of Schliemann's descendants from his first marriage to a Russian merchant's daughter in St Petersburg have also entered the dispute, claiming that their ancestor never intended his collection to remain in a museum and challenging the authorities to prove ownership.

Yevgeni Sidorov, the Russian Minister of Culture, said yesterday that the future status of the Schliemann collection and other archaeological and artistic works currently in Russian hands would be decided after parliament passes a new law on "trophy art" to be debated next month.

Nevertheless, the row is likely to continue for decades ahead, particularly since in Russia there is little sympathy for returning any booty to Germany, given the destruction of so much of the Russian cultural heritage during the Nazi invasion.

Irina Antonova, the director of the Pushkin Museum, made it clear what she and millions of other Russians feel is the only just resolution, regardless of what is stipulated by international treaties. "Dictators and conquerors must know that they will pay for their crimes with the lifeblood of their people," she told *Stern* magazine. "Only in this way will we perhaps stop a future Hitler."



A golden headress and earrings from Troy



A gold cup, part of the display in Moscow's Pushkin Museum of the Schliemann finds which were smuggled out of Ottoman Turkey to Germany in the last century

Vaults give up their secrets

Moscow: For decades the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts found itself in the position of owning one of the world's greatest art collections but being forbidden by the Soviet authorities from exhibiting it (Richard Beeston writes).

In the past few years, however, the secrets contained in the vaults of the elegant 19th-century building

in Moscow have started coming to light. Now the capital's museum is in open competition with the Hermitage in St Petersburg in dazzling the art world with hundreds of paintings, statues and artefacts which had been feared lost.

The Schliemann exhibition opens today and lasts for a year. Because the ownership of the items seized from

Germany remains a matter of dispute, none of the items is likely to travel abroad, so interested viewers will have to make the journey to Moscow.

The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts is at 12 Vokhonska Street, Moscow. The exhibition will be open daily from 10am to 7pm, except for Mondays. Admission is 50,000 roubles (£7).

Cold light of truth dims a golden legend

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

THE celebrated German archaeologist and one of the great adventurers of the 19th century, Heinrich Schliemann, was a fraud with an obsessive interest in gold.

Slowly Germans are coming to terms with the fact that their national hero, honoured by the Kaiser, bent every rule in his search for fame and fortune. There is still no denying his varied talents: he could write and speak a dozen languages, was a world traveller with a knack for impressing men of greater calibre such as Sigmund Freud and William Gladstone. But his claim to have discovered the treasure of King Priam revealed more about his instinct for self-marketing than for historical truth. Now biographers find his life story full of exaggerations and outright lies.

The son of a drunken north German vicar, Schliemann was determined to become rich quickly. As a teenager he set out for Venezuela to make his fortune; the ship, he reported, foundered in a storm and he was the sole survivor. The truth was more boring. Schliemann moved from Hamburg, where he worked in a warehouse, to Amsterdam, convincing his employer that he could speak Dutch. Schliemann learnt Russian in his free time, visited the Anglican church to learn English and set out, at 24, to do business in St Petersburg. Letters home exaggerated his wealth. In 1850 Schliemann moved to America and set up a bank for prospectors. He was accused of cheating and had to leave for Panama where, with some tricky dealing, he managed to double his fortune.

His search for profit continued around the globe. Between 1854 and 1856 he sold one-third of the salt-petre needed for Russian cannon powder in the Crimean War. By the age of 41 he was a



Schliemann: adorned in the jewellery seen in the exhibition

millionaire and he underwent a mid-life crisis. To divorce his Russian wife, he moved to the state of Indiana and under almost certainly criminal circumstances took out American citizenship.

The fascination with Troy had begun with the rambling stories of his father. Now he decided he would use the rest of his life to locate and unearth its priceless remains. As usual the search was accompanied by a show-business flair more familiar to the late 20th century. In Athens, he built a palazzo with a ballroom for 300 people; the many servants were given classical names such as Oedipus and Jocasta.

His second marriage to a young Greek was arranged, but he depicted Sophia, who posed in some of the notionally Trojan gold, as his great love. According to one of his versions, he discovered the treasure with his wife. In fact, Sophia was in Athens. Some historians believe Schliemann accumulated the treasures over three years and then presented them as a single spectacular find.

King Clovis is the toast of far Right

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A FRANKISH king who converted to Christianity 1,500 years ago and defeated the Visigoths to become the "Father of France" has been hijacked as a nationalist symbol by the extreme Right.

King Clovis was baptised at Rheims around 496, thus becoming the first Christian monarch in Western Europe. To mark the 15th centenary of his conversion, 1996 has been declared the "Year of Clovis" by French Roman Catholics.

But much to historians' anger, Clovis, founder of the Frankish monarchy, has been adopted as a figurehead by the extremist National Front, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen.

At the weekend 3,000 people attended a Clovis rally organised by a Catholic group closely linked to the National Front. M. Le Pen's speech favourably compared the "France of Clovis and Charlemagne" with the "France of Mitterrand and Chirac" was cheered loudly. A picture of the fifth-century king has already replaced Joan of Arc on the party's notepaper.

Raul Girardet, a historian, said the Front's enthusiasm for Clovis is "one of its new efforts to personify French nationalism".

Horror film blamed for family murders

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE successful architect believed to have murdered her husband and two sons before committing suicide in an exclusive Paris suburb last week may have been inspired by watching a Hollywood film about a serial killer.

Days before the bodies of Marguerite Zakrzewski, 46, her husband Piotr, 48, and their two sons were discovered at the family's home in Sceaux, the couple is said to have watched the horror film *Copycat*, starring Sigourney Weaver, in which a serial killer copies past murders.

Forensic science tests indi-

cate that the Zakrzewski murders were similar to the events portrayed in the film and the police suspect that Mme Zakrzewski, who was being treated for depression, may have carried out her own copycat murders. The film includes scenes of strangulation, hanging, decapitation and a victim who is drugged before being murdered.

Piotr Zakrzewski, who was also a renowned architect, and the couple's son Adam, 16, were stabbed in their beds and partly decapitated. The younger son, Arthur, 12, was found near the body of his mother

who had hanged herself in the stairwell, according to the police. He had been strangled and then hanged. Traces of drugs were found in the victims' bodies, indicating that they may have been sedated before they were killed.

On April 7, Adam told friends that he was going to see *Copycat* with his family that evening and police officers searching the murder scene found tickets for a Paris cinema where the film is showing, *France Soir* reported yesterday.

M. Zakrzewski and his elder son were killed that Sunday night or early the next day, according to early forensic science results, while Mme Zakrzewski and the younger boy appear to have died a little later. The bodies were found on the Tuesday.

The Zakrzewskis emigrated to France from Poland in the early 1970s and set up an award-winning architecture firm, P.L.I. Friends said that the family was well off and did not appear to have any marital problems.

Child killed: An unnamed woman was arrested in Paris on suspicion of beheading her four-year-old son, named as Wissem, with a kitchen knife on Sunday. (AFP)



Sigourney Weaver as she appeared in *Copycat*, a film about a serial killer who copied murders

Baku leader seeks rivals' extradition

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT ALIYEV has committed his grip on power in Azerbaijan with the arrest of two potential rivals in Moscow and his request yesterday for them to be extradited.

Ayaz Mutalibov, who was Azerbaijan's first post-Soviet President in 1990-92, and Rahim Haxiev, the republic's military strongman for several years, have been accused of numerous crimes and could face the death sentence if they are sent back to Baku.

"Negotiations have been going on for a long time over the detention of these men," said a spokesman for the Azerbaijan Embassy in Moscow. Both are wanted in connection with alleged coup attempts in October 1994 and March 1995. In addition, Mr Haxiev is held responsible for a string of military defeats over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The two have been living in Moscow for several years and it is not yet clear what has persuaded the Russians to arrest them now. Relations with Azerbaijan have been strained by a dispute over the routing of an oil pipeline and the arrests may be part of a wider political deal.

Left boosted as Berlusconi's 'Red scare' tactics backfire

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN CASTELLAMMARE DI STABIA

GIANFRANCO FINI, leader of the post-Fascist Alliance Nazionale and rising star of Italy's election campaign, yesterday tried to play down the last-minute use of "Red scare" tactics by his fellow leader on the Centre Right, Silvio Berlusconi.

An embarrassed Signor Fini, whose own democratic credentials are constantly under fire, said Signor Berlusconi's questioning of the Left's adherence to democracy was meant as "a joke". But the joke has backfired and could lose the Centre Right the election. Professor Romano Prodi, the Centre Left's candidate for Prime Minister, quickly made capital yesterday out of Signor Berlusconi's "incredible" remarks calling them "electoral terrorism".

At the weekend Antonio Bassolino, energetic ex-Communist Mayor of Naples, attracted the centre-left leaders to this rundown port. In a palm-fringed square by the seaford, Signor Prodi observed with unusual wit that Signor Berlusconi's scare tactic suggested he needed to "take some Valium". He also attacked the separatism of the Northern League, to huge applause, and outlined a 100 days' programme of economic revival and job creation. "In

Britain the Labour Party is about to displace the Conservatives," Signor Prodi said. "All Europe has had left-wing governments. Only in Italy is the Left excluded from power." Rightwingers retort that the "Communists" have not changed their spots, and need a respected economics professor like Signor Prodi to front

Palermo: A judge yesterday ordered one of Silvio Berlusconi's chief allies in Sicily to stand trial on a charge of collusion with the Mafia. Francesco Musotto, president of the Palermo provincial government until his arrest in November and a leading member of Forza Italia, was committed for trial on June 20 with his brother, Cesare, and three others. (Reuters)

their campaign. If the Centre Left wins by a small margin, they say, it will be dependent on extreme-left Marxist groups in parliament.

But similar arguments apply to the Right. The most prominent Naples MP is Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of the Duce, who is running for re-election for the Alliance Nazionale, now the

dominant centre-right party. Yet if the Centre Right wins, Signor Fini cannot be the bloc's candidate for Prime Minister because of the ideological baggage of Fascism. Neither he nor Massimo D'Alema, leader of the former Communists — now the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — can lead from the front.

The election could hinge on which "front man" voters trust more. Signor Prodi speaks with a lisp and radiates decency rather than charisma. But by yesterday he was looking more confident. His TV style has improved. Signor Berlusconi, who owns three TV channels, is a master of the medium; an exasperated Signor Prodi once rashly compared his media skills to that of Goebbels. But Signor Berlusconi has begun to look less assured on the small screen.

In the South all calculations could be upset by a force not up for election: the Mafia. At Castellammare, Signor Prodi vowed to take on both unemployment and the Mafia if he wins, arguing that there is "a clear link between organised crime and the insecurity of the jobs". But the Mafia remains powerful, and is likely to "make its preferences known" before the vote.

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PERSON TO PERSON

Wounds a doctor cannot heal

Stable on the outside, torn within — a psychologist with troubles of her own talks to Mary Riddell

THE psychiatric unit looked much the same. The lurid green paintwork, the cloyingly sweet smell of the corridors, the crimson medicine in plastic beakers — all of these were unaltered. Only she had changed.

Dr Lauren Slater, a Harvard-trained psychologist and award-winning essayist, had been summoned for a routine case meeting on a newly referred patient. She had not visited Mount Auburn Hospital, Massachusetts, in six years, but every detail remained eerily familiar.

In particular, she remembered the conference room. She sat behind the table that day, composed and business-like and making dutiful notes, but the chatter of her colleagues was blurred by the voices of the past.

Lauren Slater was sitting in the same chair in the same room, only now she was 14. Blood still seeped from the cuts she had hacked into her arms with razor blades, and her mother was screaming that she would be fostered out because she could stand her behaviour no more.

Lauren, as usual, said little, for she had found other means of articulating her pain. The stash of pills, stored up for suicide attempts, the self-mutilation, the starvation, the bulimia — an armoury of useless defences against a childhood scarred by misery.

She was, her doctors said, on the borderline of madness. A victim who was to spend the next nine years shuttling in and out of the psychiatric unit



Bearing the scars: Dr Lauren Slater, who escaped from the borderline of madness, but who admits she is still as vulnerable as the patients she treats. Photograph by Des Jensen

of Mount Auburn. A child so damaged that it seemed she might never make her way in the world. That she did so is extraordinary. But more unusual still is the fact that Dr Slater, smart, respected and professionally secure, should

choose to reveal that her own mental state was, at times, as fragile as that of the patients she treats today.

There is, at first meeting, scant sign of that vulnerability. She is a tiny, red-haired woman of 32, newly arrived on

the night flight from Boston and tucking into a meal of scrambled eggs and mushrooms to brace herself for the first wave of publicity for the book she scarcely dared to publish.

A moving collection of essays about her relationship with her patients, it reflects an extraordinary empathy with the pain and struggle of the male schizophrenics she treats. It is only in the final chapter that she reveals the source of her affinity to the mentally ill.

Oscar, the catatonic over-eater, Peter, the sociopath obsessed with pornography, and the rest of her cast are not merely fodder for a psychologist's jottings.

She is one of them — as mentally battered and confused and broken as they are. From early childhood, she now believes, it was decreed that she would be so.

"Mine was a regular middle-class upbringing. We lived in a nice suburb with a lot of

ranch houses until I was 11 and my father inherited his family's real estate business. Then I couldn't believe how rich we were. We had 17 rooms and maids. From the outside, it was really privileged."

Of the family's four children, Lauren, the second oldest, believed herself singled out as the target of her mother's hostility. "Some of the examples were small ones. I can remember going to a pizza parlour and accidentally dropping an ice-cream cone. My mother spread it evenly all over the pizza and made me eat it."

"I was five then, and I already thought that she was a domineering woman. I think she saw me as monstrous, but — even now — I don't exactly know what happened to me. The early years are so murky. I wanted to remember specific scenes, so that I could dissipate them, and I couldn't. But I do remember

clearly the way she focused on me, constantly touching me. I felt humiliated."

Her mother, she says, has always maintained that she was simply an impossible child to deal with. Either way, by her early teens, Lauren was routinely slashing her body. "I started to cut myself with razors. I just walked into the bathroom and did it."

"I had suicide all planned out and the pills stashed away — over-the-counter sleeping pills and my mother's allergy drug. I'd crossed the borderline."

Soon she was in care, and her father left to live in Egypt. Although she loved her foster mother, her life did not stabilise. Once she was admitted to hospital after cutting her wrists in the kitchen with steak knives. Another time she was taken in to stabilise the internal bleeding caused by her bulimia.

"I got to college eventually. After school I worked in a bakery, and all I did was to eat

all night, throw up, steal money from the till and leave with my pockets bulging with food. When I woke the next day I'd go to the supermarket, and the whole pattern started again."

Still she did not realise how ill she was. In her adolescent eyes, she was Virginia Woolf or Sylvia Plath — a tragic heroine who could give up her sickness at a whim. She was 24 when the breaking point came.

"I had been released from hospital for the fifth time, and I woke up in a motel room. I saw myself exactly as I was — a career mental patient. A woman who had ruined her insides with bulimia. Her outside with cutting. My talents were totally destroyed, and I thought suddenly it was wrong."

"It was a moral issue almost. It's wrong to kill other people, and it's wrong to kill yourself. I thought I would salvage what was left, and from that point on I was

determined to escape. And so, in the shorthand version, she acquired, remarkably, really, a master's degree from Harvard, a doctorate from Boston University, a successful career and a clutch of awards as an essayist.

She has lived with her boyfriend, a chemist, for five years and her life appears both successful and stable.

But long before she walked back into Mount Auburn, Lauren Slater knew that for her, the Cinderella scenario did not exist. Her mother, a pillar of Boston society, remains vivid at her daughter's account and adamant that her own life was made intolerable by her rebel child.

Although some colleagues have applauded her for her courage, others cut her dead in the corridors — disapproving of her identification with her patients and her refusal to accept that the psychologist should be, as Freud and his disciples preached, no more than the blank slate on which the anguish of others can be written. In particular, they abhor her personal revelations.

Even she, fearful of the storm that the inclusion of these passages — written some time ago for a small-circulation magazine — would cause, almost told her publishers that she could not, at the eleventh hour, go ahead. But then she changed her mind.

"You need to know why you're revealing. I did it to show the real human bonds that can exist between a doctor and a patient because of shared experiences. Anyway, mine's not a gory story. It's not as if I'm a serial killer."

Just a pleasant young woman, utterly normal on the outside and torn apart within. Lauren Slater does not plan to have children. "I don't know that I'm stable enough, and that upsets me. I still struggle with overwhelming depression and anxiety and urges to cut myself."

But she never does, for she has learnt now to manage the pain so that no one sees it. The traumas and secrets of her past were, as always, invisible on the day she revisited Mount Auburn — smart, businesslike Dr Slater, the good practitioner with the sleeves of her business suit pulled down to hide the tracks where the razor once sliced.

But as she sat in the conference room, the echo of her mother's voice was as strident as ever and her own despair as acute.

Soon afterwards she decided to write her story, more in the hope that her experience might prove useful to others than as sticking plaster to her own hurt. For, as she had always known, some wounds never heal.

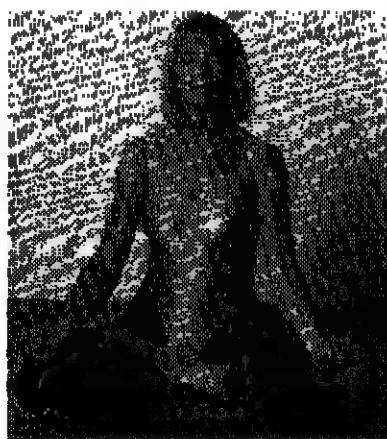
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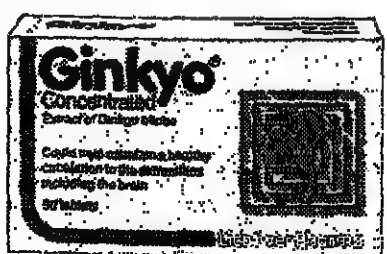


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Margarine is fine but the clue to a healthy heart may lie in childhood

Fatty acids and bigger babies

OVER the past two or three years there have been suggestions that those people who renounced butter for unsaturated margarine were sacrificing their palate without benefiting their hearts. It was thought possible that any advantage gained by using margarine either for cooking or spreading on bread might well be outweighed by the amount of trans fatty acid also present in unsaturated fats.

A group of New Zealand doctors and scientists have compared the difference in cholesterol levels in the blood between a group of patients with a raised cholesterol level, while they were using unsaturated margarine, and a group who had butter as part of a low-fat diet.

The results of their survey, published in the *British Medical Journal*, will not please the New Zealanders' butter-making compatriots for it shows that using unsaturated margarine reduces both the total amount of cholesterol and the levels of the pernicious low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, the so-called "bad cholesterol", without affecting the amount of the cardio-protective high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, the "good cholesterol".

Although cholesterol levels affect

the likelihood of having a coronary thrombosis, it is a myth to think that the estimation of cholesterol level is a simple way of predicting those who are at risk: cardiovascular disease is the result of the interaction of many different factors.

Dr Janet Cresswell, an obstetrician in Sheffield writing in the medical magazine *Hospital Update*, emphasises that a coronary thrombosis is still the most likely cause of death for a man even if he is non-smoking, forswears his fats, eats his green vegetables and has a normal blood pressure.

It is unexplained why, whereas in most parts of the world cardiovascular disease is a problem of affluence, in the United Kingdom it is more likely to be found in the poor.

Dr Cresswell draws attention to



DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

the work of Professor David Barker, of Southampton University, who has compared the infant mortality rates in different parts of Britain between 1907 and 1910 with the death rates from coronary heart disease 60 years later. The maps are almost identical — for whether being born in 1910, or living in 1970, the secret of surviving was to live south of a line joining the Severn to the Humber. More detailed studies have shown that when a once-poor district becomes affluent the mortality rate from coronary heart disease does not alter with the better lifestyle. The die, it seems, may have been cast even before the patient was delivered.

Research demonstrates that small babies have higher blood pressures when older and are more likely to

develop non-insulin-dependent diabetes than thin babies whatever their weight have higher cholesterol levels in adult life, and that those who have been underweight as toddlers later have higher levels of fibrinogen, a clotting factor, which is implicated in the genesis of coronary heart disease.

One puzzle has been why the statistics for London, where there have always been areas of poverty, were so good. The answer, apparently, lies in the number of young country women who went to London in the first half of the century as domestic servants. Well fed during their rural childhood, they enjoyed good food while employed and went on to produce large healthy babies who were still plump at a year old and who grew up to have a low incidence of raised blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease and non-insulin-dependent diabetes.

DR CRESSWELL's work in the antenatal clinic may have a valuable part to play in preventing coronary heart disease. But it will complement rather than replace the advice to stop smoking, to cut back on fat, to take daily brisk exercise and to enjoy two to four glasses of wine a day, during adult life.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 16 1996
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Day two: are schools helping tomorrow's job-hunters? Plus a quiz for aspiring high-flyers

Money is the most important thing in the world, wrote George Bernard Shaw. But when it comes to motivation, money doesn't move everyone. Some jobs and tasks are intrinsically satisfying. In this case you do not need to offer a financial incentive. If you do, you run the risk of decreasing motivation. The manager who thinks otherwise is naïve. Take the case of the academic who was irritated by the sound of local children playing noisily in a park near by. He told them he enjoyed the sound of their games so much that he was going to pay them a pound a day. They were delighted. But

three days later the don explained he could give them only 50p each. The next day he handed out only 10p. The children refused to play and vowed never to return. The don luxuriated in the silence. The children had learnt to focus on the cash and lost sight of what gave them pleasure in the first place. So who are the people with the most satisfying jobs? Not the merchant banker or high-flying company executive; rather, craftsmen and women report the great

est job satisfaction. The craftsman's enjoyment stems from the control he has over his work and the fact that he can identify with the product. Much of current thinking about what motivates workers is based on a study in America early this century. Researchers found that psychological factors were more important, in particular how people were treated by managers. More recently it has been discovered that workers simply want

MOTIVATION
to know they are loved; they want feedback on their work.

WOULD you make a good manager? Answer each question True or False.
1 In most cases, leaders should stick to their decisions, even if it appears they are wrong.
2 As morale or satisfaction among employees increases, overall per-

formance almost always rises.
3 In general, groups make more accurate and less extreme decisions than individuals.
4 Most individuals do their best work under conditions of high stress.
5 When people are frustrated at work they frequently become aggressive.
6 Women are more intuitive than men.
7 Effective leaders are more concerned about people than the task.

8 Talking to workers usually enhances their co-operation.
9 Most high-achieving managers tend to be high risk-takers.
10 If you have to reprimand a worker for a misdeed, it is better to do so immediately after the mistake occurs.
11 Most managers are highly democratic in the way that they supervise their people.
12 Successful top managers are motivated more by money than by power.

ANSWERS: 1 True; 2-4 False; 5 True; 6-9 False; 10-11 True; 12 False.
SCORE: 3 or less: you are naïve about workplace psychology and should forget any pretensions to a management position; 4-8: the situation's not hopeless but you could create as many problems as you solve; 9 and above: you have that most elusive of all qualities, the ability to manage people.

ADRIAN FURNHAM
Adapted from All in the Mind by Professor Adrian Furnham, 1995 (Whurr Publishers). Adrian Furnham is Professor of Psychology at University College London.

Test your management potential

Careers advice? Must try harder

Can school prepare you for your working life? Are the exam subjects you study any use in getting a job, and does anything that schools have to offer ease the passage into a life spent grinding away at the inevitable mill?

We asked five former classmates from Cherwell School, a mixed comprehensive in Oxford, what they were up to now, how they got there, and whether school had had much to do with it.

Tricky questions, indeed. And the Cherwell Class of '84, using both sides of the paper and giving examples where possible, answered as follows:

Tony Haynes, 30
Chartered accountant

IT NEVER crossed my mind to be an accountant. I did Maths, Biology and Chemistry because I wanted to be a vet. I was told I wouldn't get the grades for that so I did a microbiology degree at Sheffield University.

You have no idea what you want at that age, it's hard enough knowing now. I think careers advice was Cherwell's weakest area. I did these Cascade computer tests where you fed in your interests and it told you what job would suit you. It told me to be a packing technologist in Wapping!

I worked in a lab in Oxford after my degree and it was so tedious I knew I couldn't do a PhD, so there was no chance of a job in microbiology. Accountancy was a career I could control, and not always have to worry where the next grant was coming from.

The three years' training, as a graduate with a non-relevant degree, was harder work than anything I had known.

Nuria Martinez, 29
Paediatrician

I SUPPOSE this is a vocation, but that tends to peter out when you work 90 hours a week: you forget all the nice things, and all the irritations

loom larger. I came to Cherwell from Spain when I was 16, and the most useful thing I learnt at school was English, which is quite handy if you want to be a doctor here! I did A levels in Biology, Maths and Physics which got me into Imperial College, London, to do Biology. But after working for a while in hospitals in Paris and The Gambia, I became more interested in the clinical side. I went to Balliol College, Oxford, to do medicine. I was a student for nine years in all. At the moment I am in neonatal intensive care, which is very unreal; there is

THE FUTURE OF WORK



• What to tell our children

of way, so I did A levels in Art and English and then a Fine Art degree at North Humber-side College of Further Education. Careers advice had always been very vague, and I seem to remember the computer telling me to be an occupational therapist. The idea for the business, which is called Bravissimo, came from a conversation with a friend about how difficult it was to find bras that would fit us. I did a business course and found a bank manager who was very encouraging. From a mailing list of 100 customers, when we started in January last year, we have built up to a base of more than 10,000.

This is a great job when people ask me what I do at parties. I always want to talk about it.

Marcel Jaspers, 29
Marine chemist at Aberdeen University

I HAVE wanted to be a chemist since I was four years old, when I enjoyed making nasty smells all over the house. At 13, I started scuba diving and wondered about being a marine biologist, but I can do both — this is a coastal university and I spend a lot of time in the water.

There was no question about what I wanted to do, so I didn't need much advice. I learnt the lesson that has helped me most of all in A-level Maths. The teacher used to talk about the "helicopter view", insisting that I stood back from the problem and looked at it as a whole. I still do that every day.

Charles Webster, 30
Architect

THE computer told me I should be a chiropodist. They should perhaps have talked about careers in more general terms. I did A levels in Biology, English and Physics, mainly because they were the ones I thought I might pass. I planned to go to furniture college, because I did a woodwork CSE and was into practical, crafty things. Someone



Hannah Griffiths and some of her mail-order wares: "I seem to remember the computer telling me to be an occupational therapist"

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KATHRYN KNIGHT

Headmaster Blair gets on his bike

Schools could do better under Labour, says Anatole Kaletsky

The most surprising and perhaps instructive statement I heard in my odyssey through the Labour programme came in reply to a question that hardly anybody asks in these non-inflationary times. How would a Labour government deal with public sector pay demands? Wouldn't the unions expect Labour to restore the relative pay levels whittled away by decades of Tory repression?

My interlocutor seemed unflustered: "People must recognise that the more skills they have, the greater their hopes of advancement. The best way to deal with inequality is by giving people skills to enable them to improve their jobs."

If this kind of "on your bike" thinking is really now accepted by Labour — and frequent references by Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Blunkett suggest that it is — then it represents a transformation more significant than the re-writing of Clause Four.

Think about the implications. Labour wants to remain the party of equality, or at least of "fairness". But it now rejects traditional socialist methods of redistribution: steeply progressive taxes, ever-expanding welfare programmes, incomes

polices and aggressive trade unions. It also derides as "boom-bust economics" any attempt to accelerate short-term growth. What, then, is left of its striving for "social justice"?

Mr Blair and his friends think they have found the answer: education and training. Good education is, of course, a platitude espoused by all politicians of all parties. But in new Labour's strategy it is something much more important. It is a panacea capable of delivering, at least in theory, most of the party's traditional objectives: reducing unemployment, alleviating poverty, improving social conditions and arguably even accelerating economic growth.

There is no doubt that there is huge room for improvement. Polls show acute public concern about education (with most people blaming the Conservatives), and surveys by the Institute of Directors suggest that businessmen see education as more important than any other political issue, with the possible exception of personal tax.

Labour's genuine passion for education is, therefore, not in doubt. There are now detailed position papers or speeches on a host of issues: from nurseries and class sizes to teacher qualifications and university funding. Though many of the controversial details remain vague — for example, about student loans or the precise procedures for removing bad teachers — the outlines are clear.

Labour wants most schools to remain comprehensive, but no longer favours universal mixed-ability teaching. It wants pupils divided by ability into sets for individual subjects, rather than streams for entire school years. It will tol-

erate but not encourage grammar schools. It wants private schools to "contribute to the community" for their charitable status, but will not put VAT on school fees. It wants to bring the long-term unemployed back into education or training — and is prepared to use an element of compulsion.

In general, there is no disputing the sincerity of Mr Blunkett's "crusade" for higher standards. He also seems willing, even eager, to confront the obstructionists in the teaching unions and the educational establishment, whom many in the party now accuse of having given the ideal of comprehensive education a bad name.

Most of Labour's educational ideas, then, appear quite reasonable (a notable exception is the plan to turn A levels into "modular" courses) — and they are, in fact, quite close to those now espoused by the Government. But why should Mr Blunkett, for all his undoubted passion, have more chance than the Tories of achieving results?

This is a question that I had to keep asking in this era of me-too politics. On education, the answers seem more convincing than those I discussed yesterday regarding economics.

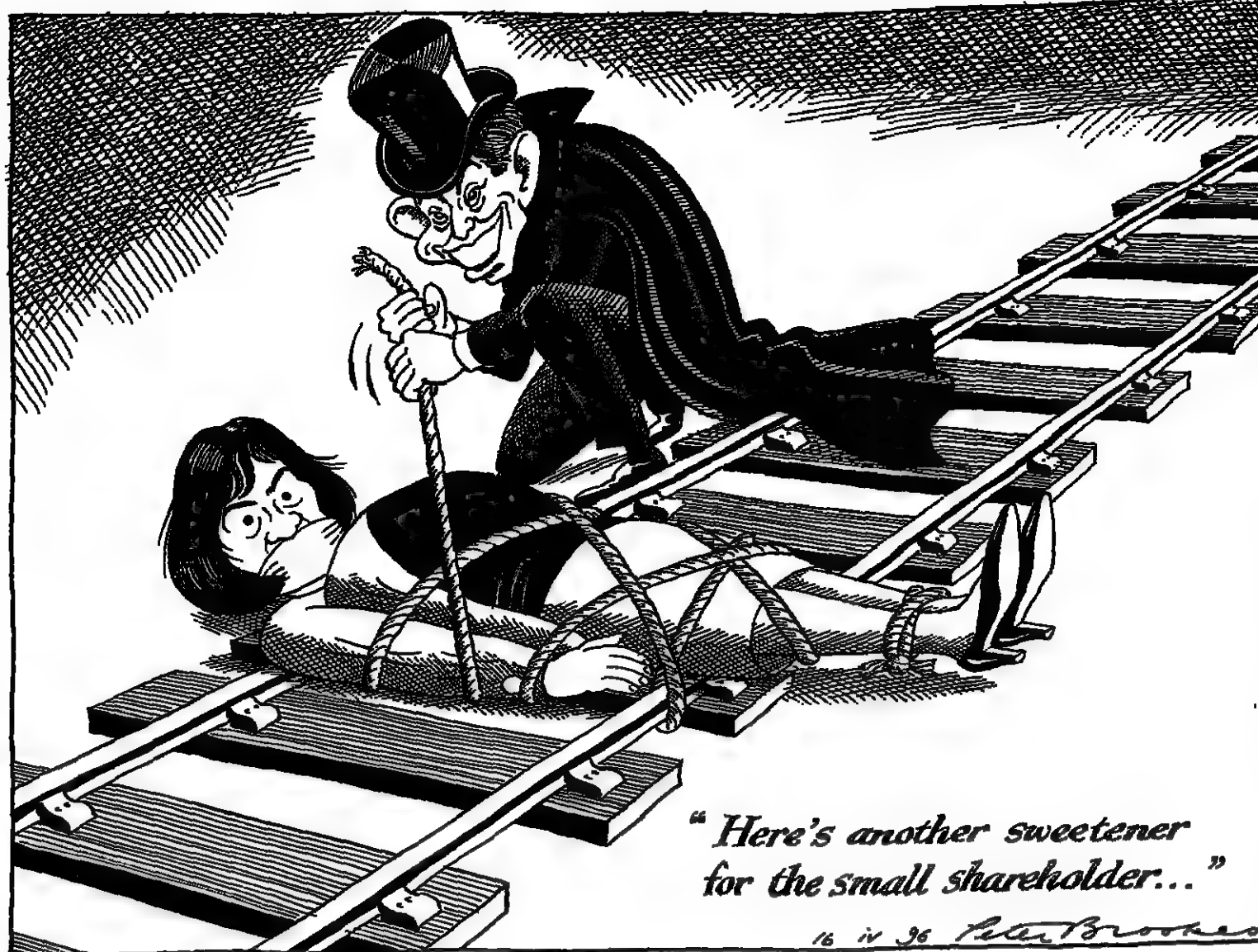
First, improving education is not a matter of merely "throwing money" at schools. Britain already spends as much on education as other advanced countries — with manifestly poorer results. Secondly, as Labour leaders point out, the Tories have been obsessed with constantly reforming school structures (most recently with their proposal to recreate grammar schools), and this may have distracted them from the more important question of standards.

Thirdly, the Tories continue to focus on the top 20 per cent of pupils, although the present system already does reasonably well for these, as Mr Major concedes. The big problems lie in the lower half of the intelligence range.

Finally, there is the overarching philosophical difference between the parties. The Tory answer to all managerial problems is competition and consumer choice. But in education the market model may be inappropriate. Bad schools cannot be left to be dismantled gradually by consumer choice. Parents cannot shop around for education, as they would for a car, if only because moving children between schools imposes so much strain on children. And teachers may respond to political leadership, as well as to commercial incentives.

If any or all of these arguments are valid, then Labour might perhaps achieve better results than the Tories in education. And given the state of Britain's education after the Tories' 17 years in office, some of the arguments against their record must surely be right.

Tomorrow: Welfare, pensions and health.



Cities are for citizens

Homo sapiens is now an urban species — let us attend to our habitat

A crucial balance has tilted, and a time without precedent is upon us. Or will be, some time in the next four years. By the millennium, according to a report by the World Bank and others, more than half of the human race will live in towns and cities.

In some developed nations this has already happened: if you allow suburban sprawl to be city, Britain has long since tipped the balance. Soon it will be so from Bogotá to Bombay and Bergen to Cape Town. There are compelling reasons for it: rural poverty sends people flocking to the city, but so does prosperous rural mechanisation. Never mind that when they get there it may be to find shanty towns, harassment and filth; never mind that in developing countries a third of urban dwellers live in ramshackle illegal developments: the rural poor keep on coming.

As world population grows, it clumps together in conurbations. Britain, where middle-class prosperity has mysteriously come to mean fleeing to mock-rustic tranquillity, needs to be reminded of this older pattern of behaviour — the Dick Whittington effect. The future of the human race lies in cities. It is an awesome thought: a new step in evolution.

This week there are preparatory talks for a UN conference in Istanbul to discuss the future of cities and how to manage them. There could be no more important subject. Just about everything that matters depends on how well we run cities.

I find this at once terrifying and exhilarating. Cities provide images of hell or heaven with equal ease. For every half-remembered hymn extolling the New Jerusalem, there is an atavistic fear of dark murderous alleys and claustrophobic misery; for every graceful piazza, an image of decaying spray-painted concrete, eaten by the acid fumes of hopeless traffic. From the Bible to Armistead Maupin, literature uses cities to symbolise liberty, strength, grace, common purpose and vitality; but also temptation, corruption, slavery and sin. For every Wordsworth exclaiming that Earth hath not anything to show more fair, there is a Byron who finds "the hum of human cities torture" and a Blake, walking through the chartered streets near to "mark in every face I meet / Signs of weakness, signs of woe". Forgive the outbreak of poetry: there is a giddy extremity in the subject which provokes it.

Some years after our move, I helped to escort a school trip to the South Bank. The village school had never attempted London before, and many of these eight-year-olds had parents who had never been to the capital (this is more common than Londoners think). The children rose to the excitement of it. As elected bus guide, I pointed out Canary Wharf and the Tower and told them the precise moment when our coach rumbled over the deep thrilling vaults where the Bank of England's gold lies. I grew manic. I led them onto Charing Cross bridge to see Parliament and St Paul's, and told how the river runs down past the palace of Greenwich and out to sea, and that in the Bank of England council chamber there is a weathervane on the wall by which

But what we need is prose. Beneath the cloud-capped towers, there must be proper drains. The difference between horrible cities and proud ones lies in how they are managed and in whose interest. Every city is potentially dreadful and potentially great, and none can afford complacency. London is not Calcutta, but in the shadow of every Wren church there are figures huddled in cardboard boxes, child prostitutes and pale bank young mothers from the bed-and-breakfast hostels pushing their babies to and fro to kill the endless hours till evening. There is

interest rates were once decided (because when ships were able to come upriver with cargoes, merchants needed more money to buy them). I sternly informed these country children that this was their capital too, and that they had a stake in it. And will have, even if they never actually live in it.

We ought to be inspired as well as nervous about the prediction that cities will be home to more than half of us by AD 2000. To create a good city is the ultimate test of human ingenuity and goodwill; any fool can devise a reasonable rule of

life for people who live scattered among open fields and hillsides, but it takes talent to make a city work. As man-the-farmer gives way to man-the-next-door-neighbour, not one of us can do our collective responsibility to fight for the improvement of towns and cities.

Starting with our own. The "inner city problem" and the deterioration of London in particular over the past 15 years are a disgrace. The venal, short-sighted decision by the Government to deny the capital a unitary authority by closing down the Greater London Council is responsible for much of that decline. Not, however, for all of it. Cities must be alluring to the successful as well as the aspiring, and blinkered socialism makes them as unattractive as any callous laissez-faire capitalism.

My late father, Consul-General in Hamburg, was deeply embarrassed once during a visit by the British Minister of Transport, Barbara Castle. The burgomasters proudly showed her the site for an extension to the U-Bahn (underground) service, and observed that the cost had been inflated by the need to double-glaze the windows of residents overlooking the dusty, despoiling two-year construction site. Our minister was scandalised. "Why should you?" she demanded to know. "It's for their own good!"

Libby Purves

Pas de pomp

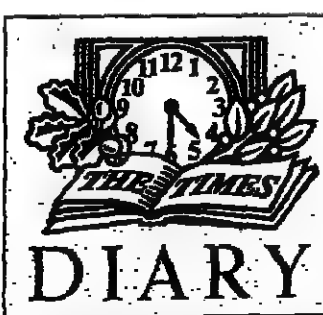
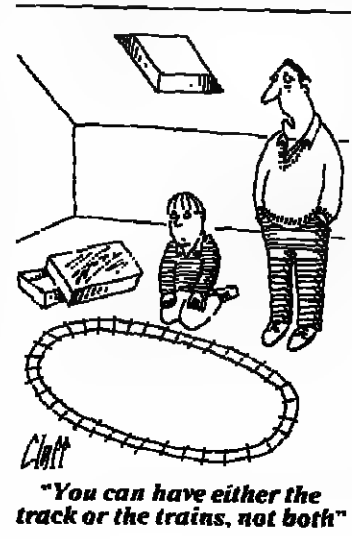
PRESIDENT CHIRAC is insisting on slumming it on his state visit to Britain next month. Though he will succumb to royal fripperies when he sees the Queen, he has said that when he visits the City, the pomp must go. He does not want the customary sumptuous Guildhall banquet laid on for heads of state, preferring a seminar on pensions at the Bank of England and little more than a grab at the buffet cart at a Guildhall business lunch.

Call it *nostalgie de la boue* or just the mores of modern statesmanship, but not everyone is happy. "We would normally do a banquet in the evening, but when Chirac was invited he made a point of saying he wanted it to be a working visit," says Michael Cassidy, chairman of the policy and resources committee of the Corporation of London, which runs the City. "There won't be any of the usual flags, trumpets and ceremonial speeches. He will be treated like a visiting mayor."

Citizen Chirac's other specific request, to be taken to a traditional English pub, has also been causing trouble. It had to be pointed out to the Foreign Office that the President of France could not be seen

drinking in their first-choice venue, The Duke of Wellington.

● Wanted: one diary, preferably on a golfing theme. Sir Denis Thatcher was in W H Smith's Sloane Square branch on Friday night, cane in hand, looking for a new futures book. Directed to a meagre selection comprising one diary based on the television series *Red Dwarf* and one for sixth



formers, he strode back out to his waiting car empty-handed.

Ruff stuff

ANYONE looking for signs of panic in the Tory party might care to take note of the furious pack-shuffling going on at Conservative Central Office. The latest recruit — to the press office — is David Ruffley, for four years special adviser to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Ruffley, who was obliged to resign from his position as special adviser when he was selected as the Tory candidate for Bury St Edmunds, is known to his journalist friends as "Treat Me" Ruffley, owing to his weakness for their expensive account lunches.

● Poor Trevor McDonald. The newscaster and occasional news-

paper journalist yesterday appeared on Radio 4's Today programme to talk about the launch of the Better English Campaign. Just eight words into his first answer, his credibility was blown as he began: "Well, the practical steps we can take is..."

Boxed in

AS THE football season reaches its climax, the Blair household is riven. The Leader of the Opposition is a supporter of second-placed Newcastle, while his son Euan is a fan of Premiership leaders Manchester United, despite having grown up in Arsenal territory.

Blair Senior recently put aside his own loyalties, however, and took Euan to see Manchester United play. According to his constituency agent, John Burton, "Tony found that Eric Cantona's dad was in the box next to them. M Cantona doesn't speak English, so Tony spent the whole match translating between him and Euan, who couldn't believe his luck."

Fash flash

NEW YORK'S fashion crowd is buzzing with just one question: which of the Grandes Edifices owns the rights to the Princess of



The Princess and her new patron, Anna Wintour of Vogue

Wales? Everyone assumed she was the property of Liz Tilberis, the hugely popular editor of *Harper's Bazaar* and a close friend of the Princess since her time as editor of *British Vogue*. Most of the Princess's recent visits to New York have had a Tilberis connection.

In a surprise move, however, Anna Wintour, Tilberis's rival over at *American Vogue*, has won the Princess's services for a gala dinner in September. "Nuclear" Wintour, who leads a lifestyle so dazzling that sunglasses

are de rigueur, heads a triumvirate including designer Ralph Lauren, and the proprietor of *The Washington Post*, Katherine Graham, who are organising a fundraising dinner for the Nina Hyde Centre for Breast Cancer Research.

The Princess, whose transatlantic visits usually include some really serious flattery, has agreed to attend. As Wintour explains: "To succeed, any event needs a degree of glamour."

Slowing the Asian arms race

Joanna Pitman on Clinton's vital message to Japan

PRESIDENT Clinton arrives in Tokyo today on a four-day East Asian tour, during which, naturally, he will have one eye on his own domestic electoral image. More important for all of us, however, is his intention to reinforce America's commitment to stability in the region.

Asia has no security framework of its own. It is bristling with mutual distrust, and since the end of the Cold War it has become a tinderbox of military skirmishes. Without America's continuing security presence; the increasingly overt military tensions could lead to war. And given China's position as a highly militarised superpower, the danger of such a war spreading would be greater than almost anywhere else in the world.

Japan, which is central to Clinton's tour, is the key strategic base for the region, giving America a vital forward deployment that allows a quick response to conflicts from East Asia to the Gulf. The recent tension in the Taiwan Strait and the full alert on the Korean Peninsula have reminded the Japanese Government of the necessity of permitting a considerable American military presence on its territory, even if this requires growing Japanese financial contributions.

The Japanese people, however, are divided on the issue. Older generations, burdened with memories of Japan's misadventures in the Second World War, are reluctant to allow Japan to shoulder responsibility for its own security. They would certainly not countenance the idea of Japanese troops participating in a permanent military framework for Asia.

Younger generations, on the other hand, have no memory of the war, and are keen for Japan to take a role on the international stage that is commensurate with its economic strength. They want Japan to have a more active foreign policy and to shake off what is seen as the "shameful and patronising" protective American umbrella.

Last month, for example, former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa (now 58) called in a speech for the withdrawal of American ground forces and Marines from the islands of Okinawa (which were returned to Japan only in 1972, after 27 years of American occupation). He also suggested that Japan should reassess its constitutional restriction on its self-defence forces, and should seek a more equal role in the alliance with America.

Tension over the 47,000-strong American presence peaked last year when the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawa girl by three US Marines brought fierce protests and demands for a total withdrawal. In a deft advance move, Washington has announced the scaling down of its military presence in Okinawa by a fifth. This will appease both resentful locals and American voters calling for major cuts or greater contributions towards the cost of Asian commitments.

But Mr Clinton still has to tread with great delicacy in Tokyo. Given the electoral pressures and Japan's chilly welcome on the one hand, and the Korean war alert and the looming threat of a cold war with China on the other, he must assure the Asian nations that the Pentagon's planned reduction to 100,000 troops in the region is not a prelude to withdrawal. Even if everything changes after the presidential election, the perception at very least that American forces are there to stay is vital to stability.

To those of us used to thinking about European or Atlantic security, it is surprising that Asia has no regional structure to manage anxieties and suspicions left over from old conflicts. Despite an abundance of regional trade alliances, there is no equivalent of Nato, the EU, or for that matter the Warsaw Pact.

The alarming result of this security shortfall, and of America's growing isolationism, is that almost every Asian state is stepping up its military expenditure and nervously eyeing the military budgets of its neighbours. By mid-1995, the annual defence spending of Japan and Asia's six newly industrialised countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand) had exceeded \$130 billion, which is in excess of Western Europe's.

No one likes to call this an arms race, but it has all the classic signs: long simmering national rivalries, ethnic tensions, disputed oil reserves, international flashpoints, regular invasions of disputed islands (the Spratleys are claimed by seven different countries), highly contested maritime trade passages, two known nuclear powers (China and India) and two suspected (Pakistan and North Korea), and a highly unpredictable and belligerent superpower in the middle of everything.

As always, China dominates the strategic picture. Fewer challenges loom larger than that of building a relationship of stability and equality between China and the rest of the region. To this end, a responsible long-term attitude to Asian security by the United States is crucial. Pulling out of Asia may sound tempting to Democrat budget-cutters with only a dim and distant idea of the local dynamics; but if America does withdraw, or even hints that it might, we are all likely to be sorry.

P.H.S



CLINTON IN JAPAN

America needs bases in Japan; Japan and Asia need them there

President Clinton arrives in Japan today as the guest of the Emperor on a visit described by the US Defence Secretary as "the most important summit since the end of the Cold War". Its immediate purpose is to strengthen the troubled US-Japan security treaty — a lopsided alliance which is vital to Asian security, and which is in need of more than cosmetic patches. Beyond that, both governments need to guide a wider public debate on why America needs bases in Japan and why Japan needs them there. The outcome could be to shift the acknowledged focus of the alliance outward, from the protection of Japan to a wider Asian security role in which, for the first time since the Second World War, Japan could play a supporting military role beyond its shores. This trip could come to be seen as a turning point in both countries' attitudes to Asian security.

The occasion is vested with exceptional significance for another reason: American presidential visits to Japan are astonishingly rare. Gerald Ford's, in 1974, was the first — nearly 120 years after Commodore Perry's "black ships" first docked in Japanese waters in the first of America's many efforts to prise open the Japanese market. Since then, there have been only six. By contrast, Japanese prime ministers travel to Washington with clockwork regularity.

This is only one, and the least important, of many asymmetries in the bilateral relationship. In the decades after the Second World War, both sides lived with them happily enough. America kept its doors open to Japanese goods, tolerating Japanese trade barriers as a necessary evil while Japan rebuilt its shattered economy. Japan embraced its pacifist postwar constitution and, sheltered by the US security umbrella, was content to play the unquestionably loyal ally.

But as Japan's trade surplus with the US ballooned and as the end of the Cold War in Europe diminished America's enthusiasm for defending wealthy allies in Europe and Asia alike, practically every part of US-Japan relations became frayed. The Clinton Administration initially paid little attention to the military dimension. For nearly two years, tensions in the security relationship

were left simmering on the back-burner. An awkward conjunction of domestic and Japanese pressures has compelled Mr Clinton to take these issues seriously. He is faced with rising demands in Congress for Japan to assume greater responsibility for its own defence. In Japan, last year's rape of a Japanese girl by three US servicemen has fed demands from Okinawa, the tiny island that provides 75 per cent of the US base areas, for US troop withdrawals. Throughout Japan, the incident opened up unprecedented debates on sovereignty, national responsibility and the conversion of economic power into international influence.

Mr Clinton will sign a joint declaration affirming the treaty's importance. The ground has been meticulously prepared. The US will continue to base 47,000 troops in Japan; but to defuse anger on Okinawa, America will close seven bases there and hand back a fifth of the base areas' acreage. In return, Japan will provide the logistical support for US troops on peacetime exercises for which America has been pressing for eight years. There will be a careful reference to wider security co-operation in Asia.

That is as far as either side dares, for the moment, to open up the much larger question of Japanese support for American forces in combat situations. North Korea's refusal to observe the armistice agreement and China's aggressive military manoeuvres in the Taiwan Strait are sharp reminders of the damage that the alliance would suffer if US forces based in Japan had to respond to a regional crisis — and Japan declined to provide naval and other military assistance, even in a support role. But amendment to Japan's peace constitution, which renounces the right of belligerence, is a subject not only taboo in Japan until very recently, but extremely sensitive in the eyes of Japan's neighbours. The Japanese have cautiously begun to talk about becoming a "normal country" and Mr Clinton will be tempted to give this debate a nudge forward. But in the aftermath of the Okinawa rape, he would be unwise to force the pace. For now, Asian security will best be served by a seamless diplomatic repair job to this vital alliance.

THE PEOPLE'S BILLIONAIRE

The Tories deserve Sir James's intervention

The sweetest dream of campaigners at Conservative Central Office is that Sir James Goldsmith packs his bags and inflicts his Euro-scepticism upon France instead. But, unfortunately for the Tories, Sir James is not going to go away. Over the weekend, he confirmed that he was to field 600 candidates in the general election, backed by at least £20 million ("or whatever it takes") of his own money. The party plans to hold a conference this autumn and is pressing for the right to a party election broadcast.

Far from stealing his thunder by promising a referendum should the Government back participation in a single currency, the Tories have ignited it. Sir James criticises this pledge as too weak because it is hypothetical and lasts for only one Parliament. More to the point, he says, it fails to give the British people a chance to express their opinion on the Maastricht treaty itself.

When election time comes, even if the Referendum Party musters its likely tiny percentage of the vote, it could still deliver a few Tory marginal seats to Labour. The Conservatives doubtless hope that the promise of a single currency referendum will assuage most voters' anxieties and that only a few will then defect to Sir James. But, for the first time, Tory candidates will be fighting a fringe party with a charismatic, well-known leader and huge sums of money to spend. This is no Green Party: it is more akin to the challenge in America by Ross Perot.

Established politicians of all persuasions are angry. They call Sir James an upstart, a carpetbagger with no political roots in this

country. He has promised, in the unlikely event of winning power, that he would hold a referendum and promptly dissolve Parliament. This is taken as an affront to the dignity of the legislative and political process.

Yet it is precisely because of the way in which the Maastricht Bill was bulldozed through Parliament, with no respect either for public opinion or for the individual views of MPs, that this party has been formed. John Major refused to allow British voters a say on the treaty. He bullied, bribed and cajoled its passage through the House of Commons, relying on confidence votes and threats of "suicide pacts" to achieve his end.

The Bill was passed, but the body politic was scarred by the battle. MPs, who swear by the principle of parliamentary sovereignty, voted to hand more of it over to Brussels. Many people felt deeply resentful to see this happen over their heads. The divisions live on within the Tory party and may cause it to splinter after the election.

Had Parliament acted more responsibly then, Sir James would have less ammunition now. The purity of his message — consult the people, and then let them vote again in a general election — is appealing to an electorate that has been fed cloudy platitudes for so long by both main parties. Voters may shun the Referendum Party on polling day but at least they are being challenged to think about the most important issue facing the country. If politicians resent this, it is because, deep down, they know that they have denied people the democracy that should have been theirs.

STEAM HEAT

The traditional English bath runs both hot and cold

The identification of Henry VIII's Turkish bath adds to the popular reputation of England's most popular King. In spite of the evidence to the contrary, Henry is now a merry monarch. According to his public relations, he had the native taste for sports, feasts and superiority to foreigners. To those he added the supposed benefit of many wives. Now, the British Museum at last discloses, he wallowed in his own imported luxury.

Bathing divides British society, Puritans from Cavaliers. From the one tap we draw the Roundhead proverb that cleanliness is next to godliness. From the other, we trickle the tradition of steaming, singing and reading in the bath. The Romans made Bath the toponym for comfort in their cold colony, and built baths with hypocausts and caldaria into their villas and barracks. Because hot water was so expensive, their successors covered themselves in goose grease and sewed themselves up in their underclothes, and made folklore about washing the hands often, the feet seldom and the head never.

The old Roman notion of bath as a social comfort in a cold climate is still with us in communal baths in sports clubs, student lodgings and overheated municipal swimming pools. The idea of bath as ritual cleansing survives as a fossil into the modern world in the Christian foot-washing on Maundy Thursday, Knights of the Bath in ritual purification in Shintoism and Hin-

du immersion in a holy river. Whoever first boasted of taking a cold bath in Britain was a liar. But cold baths, along with Christianity and cricket, became foundation disciplines of Empire-building boarding schools.

The Turkish steam bath, with rooms of different temperatures leading to a short, cold shock, combined Indian bathing with Roman plumbing techniques. Crusaders brought the concept, with its comforts and rituals, and series of rooms for seclusion or sociability, back from Constantinople to Europe. But in English weather hot water was too expensive for all but kings, and Puritans gave mixed bathing a name that equated it with loose living.

In Turkey, baths avoid the serpent of nudity by making special days for men and women. In Europe the spread of private home-ownership in the 19th century introduced the bathroom as a private place with a lock on the door against the children. But the old English confusion about bathing survived in the class joke that unsophisticated northerners kept the coal in the bath and, if they were forced to it, were scrubbed in a tin bath in front of the fire. Today the smartest flats boast American showers, which are said to be cleaner and more economical than a luxurious wallow in dirty water. But Henry VIII's early sauna shows that comfort as well as cleanliness is engrained in the English character as deep as schoolboy grime.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Democratic way to replace the Lords

From Lord Kennet

Sir, The idea of a two-stage reform of the House of Lords (report, April 8) — first get rid of the inactive hereditaries, then decide what sort of House you want — is likely to fail. The great majority of the hereditary peers would, I believe, give up their places for democracy, but not for the greatest quango of them all, which is what an appointed House would be.

To defeat them you would have to swamp them with new appointees. But two Labour election wins running cannot be guaranteed and if the Tories came back they could swamp the Labour majority with new creations in their turn. And so on: the House could grow indefinitely if there were rapid general election swings.

It would thus be wiser to avoid an interim House, and go for a single-stage reform. First decide what composition would be both democratic and possible: there are several constitutionally valid forms for the necessary consultation. A proposal agreed among the parties could be put to Parliament within a year. That would still leave time for Scottish and other devolution in the first Labour Parliament.

I write as a Labour hereditary peer and a former minister in the Lords who was asked to stay there by Harold Wilson. Like all democrats, I favour an elected or mainly elected upper House, and have written and spoken to that effect for 35 years. I also took an active part in the failed attempt at reform in 1968, and would regret another failure.

Yours etc,
WAYLAND KENNET,
House of Lords,
April 9.

A teaching profession

From Lord Caldecote, FENG

Sir, It has been tragic to read of the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers, with so much emphasis given in the debates to political and "activist" issues at the expense of discussion on vital professional matters (report, April 9; letters, April 12).

Other important professions such as, for example, medicine (through the royal colleges), engineering, science, accounting and architecture all have highly regarded professional bodies who are dedicated to the promotion and maintenance of high standards in their professions. They achieve this through election to them of those who are appropriately qualified, both academically and through experience, and by disseminating the results of research.

There are normally various recognised grades such as fellows, members, graduates, each indicating a degree of professional standing. But these professional bodies, mostly set up under a royal charter, are not permitted to become involved in negotiations relating to pay and conditions of service which are the natural province of trade unions, whose work is also valuable in ensuring remuneration adequate to attract high-quality people into the profession.

But the combination of these two activities within trade unions in the teaching profession has not served it or the nation well as it has failed to provide any source of high-quality professional advice, unbiased by political considerations, to government and teaching institutions of all kinds.

It is high time that an influential and well respected all-embracing professional organisation was set up for the teaching profession in which high standards are so vital.

Yours faithfully,
CALDECOTE,
House of Lords,
April 12.

Countryside attitudes

From the General Secretary of the Countryside Movement

Sir, Mr R. Eyres (letter, April 5) seems to suggest that the Countryside Movement (letter, March 29) is undemocratic in having only its board of directors with absolute power to determine policy.

People are asked to register as supporters of our movement if they have an interest in the countryside. They may then, as many do, write to us with their views and concerns.

Our policy advisory group, which reports to the board, considers these in determining where the Countryside Movement could make the most effective contribution. The board, which meets only quarterly, can have the final say on policy, based on the advice it receives.

We are launching a newsletter in May to let supporters know what we have been doing and encourage them to make their views known.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX Y. ARMSTRONG,
General Secretary,
The Countryside Movement,
11 Tufnell Street, SW1,
April 10.

Tory blues

From Mr S. P. T. Hedley

Sir, Could Staffordshire South East have been a bye-election result for the Conservatives (letters, April 13)?

Yours sincerely,
S. P. T. HEDLEY,
9 Bourneville Road, Stretford, SW16,
April 16.

Behaviour of servicemen in Cyprus

From Air Vice-Marshal A. F. C. Hunter

Sir, Major-General Philip Davies's analysis of the Army's problems in Cyprus (letter, April 6) is masterly. It mirrors exactly my own advice to the then Chief of the Defence Staff, Sir Peter Harding, given in 1993 when I was Commander British Forces Cyprus.

Later, retired and freed of the restraints of service conventions, I repeatedly urged the same line on Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Defence. Neither responded to strong arguments to repatriate the Eastern Sovereign Base Area battalion, which serves no serious military purpose by its presence in Cyprus.

Harding, Rifkind and their advisers bear a much greater share of the responsibility for events involving servicemen in Cyprus than has been acknowledged. It is convenient but not right to dump that responsibility on those grappling on the ground with a situation created and perpetuated by MoD policy.

Yours faithfully,
SANDY HUNTER,
18 Jacobsin Chare,
Blackfriars, Newcastle upon Tyne,
April 7.

From Mr Jim Davidson

Sir, I have read with interest your editorial of March 30, "Memo to Forlino", and agree with Brigadier Arthur Denaro whom you quote as saying that this was a trial of three individuals, not a trial of the British Army.

During my career as an entertainer I have performed in front of most of this country's regiments and have found it a sometimes difficult but enjoyable and rewarding task. I have found the young men and women of our Armed Forces totally dedicated to their professions and I must agree with the Army's assessment that there are bound to be "a few bad apples".

Adoption procedures

From Mr Tim Render

Sir, Mrs Felicity Collier, the Director of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (letter, April 9), is quite right to stress that a rigorous assessment of prospective adopters is essential if the needs of the child are to be met. However, it is also important that prospective adopters are dealt with in a sensitive and supportive way by adoption "professionals".

I am the adoptive parent of four (separately adopted) children and I have dealt with four local authorities considering placements as well as two independent adoption agencies. I can thus testify from experience to the special and continuing needs of some children seeking a permanent family.

Even as experienced parents and adopters, we still needed support and help from our adoption agency for the first two years of our most recent adoption, as well as indefinitely continuing support from health and development professionals.

An agency must have assurance that those in whom it places its trust are capable of providing what the child needs; this means a lengthy and rigorous assessment process by properly trained adoption workers.

However, having initially been rejected myself by one local authority, and left without any real understand-

ing even of the assessment procedure, I can understand the reaction of those who are rejected. An independent complaints procedure is therefore a welcome inclusion in the new Bill.

The best adoption professionals work with prospective adopters, assessing their strengths and weaknesses but with a view to establishing both what it is they have to offer a child and whether there is a child for whom this would be the right home. The latter point is crucial: those wanting to adopt must be told as soon as possible of the characteristics and special needs of most children seeking adoptive homes. They must be helped openly and honestly by adoption workers to see how their skills and love might be channelled to meet those needs.

I have now experienced this partnership working with two separate adoption agencies. I know that it is much easier to be told difficult truths by someone who has bothered to get to know you and is as open as possible about the process. Confidentiality can too easily become a refuge for workers or authorities insufficiently sure of their judgments to stand by them in public.

Yours faithfully,
TIM RENDER,
14 Jellicoe Way,
Hinckley, Leicestershire,
April 9.

Queen of Herts?

From Mrs R. A. Notley

Sir, I don't know Barbara Follett, the Labour candidate for the Tory constituency in which I vote, personally; but by now I'm eagerly seeking a chance to meet her. Any woman who warrants two major features in the same week in *The Times* ("The socialist queen of Herts?", April 9; "Wine, women and Labour", April 11) must be quite outstanding; and she is not yet an elected MP.

I'll certainly raise a glass of champagne to toast her future success, and I look forward eagerly to her injecting some life and sparkle into the dull corridors of the Palace of Westminster.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. NOTLEY,
128 Scarborough Avenue,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire,
April 9.

Enduring difficulties

From Mr Stephen L. Phillips

Sir, Mr Colin J. Edwards, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Visitors of HM Prison Brockhill, writes (letter, April 9) that "women inmates are widely believed to be more difficult than men". Has a similar characteristic ever been noted beyond the prison gate?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN L. PHILLIPS,
The Mount,
Chirk, Wrexham County Borough,
April 10.

Matters of taste

From Ms Jacqueline Becker

Sir, Tim Bartlett, of the English Tourist Board (letter, April 6), insists that the all-important qualities of an establishment are customer-care, hospitality, decor, furniture and fittings.

How depressingly typical of the English Tourist Board. What about the food?

Yours faithfully,
JACQUELINE BECKER,
17 Water Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
April 9.

Watch this space

From Mr M. Gordon

Sir, On January 23 you published an article by Nigel Hawkes about the atmosphere on Jupiter; it appeared on a page headed "Overseas News". Today, he has a piece about brown dwarf stars and the Saturn moon Titan; it appears as "Home News".

What on Earth is going on?
Yours sincerely,
M. GORDON,
6 Lansdowne Road,
Chesham, Buckinghamshire,
April 10.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

DTI guide points way to £60bn market

BY BRIAN COLLETT

A NEW guide showing small businesses how to obtain work from government bodies has had a guarded reception from small business organisations.

Tendering for Government Contracts, from the Department of Trade and Industry, details the procedures for obtaining government and NHS work, together worth £60 billion a year, some of which requires three quotes before being allocated.

A department spokeswoman said: "Small firms are often not geared up for dealing with government accounting departments. We thought it good to give them the inside track on that."

However, many small businesses feel excluded by the bureaucracy, said Nick Goulding, head of policy at the Forum of Private Business. "Government business is low on the agenda for small companies because they don't expect to get it."

Yet, Mr Goulding went on, they are generally better managed and more efficient and offer keener prices because they are in a more competitive marketplace. A preference for large companies, therefore, reduced the circle of potential suppliers and the public purse suffered. He welcomed the guide as a positive step, but insisted: "The changes need to be in the Government. We should tell them: 'Your stupid procedures are cutting off your nose to spite your face.'"

Sophie Chalmers, who edits the Home Run magazine for home-based business people, objected that government bodies had the bargaining power to impose hard terms and were slow payers. "The guide is good public relations, but will it work?" she asked.

At the Federation of Small Businesses, Britain's largest organisation in the sector, Stephen Alambritis was more welcoming. "Few people remember that the Defence Ministry needs toilet rolls and furniture as well as aircraft and tanks. There is a long way to go before government departments realise the benefits of flexibility, desire to please and innovation offered by small businesses, but this is a step in the right direction."

● Tendering for Government Contracts is free. Contact 0171-510 0169.

A fireback collection has given a small company a national name, says Jessica Gorst-Williams

Keeping the home fires burning by furnishing fireplaces of all kinds is at the heart of the family business of Mark Ripley Antiques and Forge in Robertsbridge, East Sussex.

Its beginnings date from 1920 when the original Mark Ripley settled with wagons and horses on the site and scoured the area for marble busts, antique fireplaces, bronze cannons and enameledware, which were being sold off cheaply from houses which were being renovated. In this way he built up a salvage yard while he and his family lived in a Victorian railway carriage.

Mrs Kay Ripley recalls: "When Mark Ripley died in 1962, his son, John Mark, who was my husband, reopened as a specialist fireback centre." She took over the business in 1977 when her husband died. Their son John had been apprenticed to a blacksmith when he left school and he joined the business making fire baskets, gates, arches and general ironwork.

Among Mark Ripley's collection were more than 150 original 16th to 19th-century firebacks. It is reproductions of these, cast in a foundry nearby, that are largely responsible for the business's national reputation. The earliest is from an Elizabethan original and prices range from £60 up to £900.

Firebacks now make up about one third of the company's sales. The business also sells a variety of products such as hanging-baskets



Iron masters: Kay Ripley and her son John have built a nationwide reputation from Robertsbridge

brackets, iron doorbell pulls, flower containers, lanterns, firecreens, chestnut roasters, firebricks and firedogs, about half of which are made on the premises.

Fireplace accessories are tailored to individual requirements and Mrs Ripley will visit anyone within a 200-mile radius to give advice. Over the years, as some old-style businesses in Robertsbridge have closed, the Ripleys have also built up a small rural museum to conserve the flavour of the past.

Mrs Ripley said: "Acquisitions include the contents of the village's last blacksmiths and things from the old wheelwright and saddlery. There is a pair of boots from the cobbler, made in 1899 and we have the counters from the haberdashery that shut in the 1970s."

The business has had to contend

with a number of difficulties in the last few years. "A double-whammy came with the bypass. When it was completed in 1991 it cut out a third of our trade overnight, because it makes a detour round the village and many people no longer pass the shop," says Mrs Ripley. "At the same time the recession was beginning to bite the building trade so there was less call for fireplaces."

Although goods are delivered throughout Britain, the cost of freight abroad makes exporting unviable. But over recent years business has evened out and now they are selling about 300 firebacks a year. Mrs Ripley added: "We have supplied all kinds of venues from tiny cottages to a fireback for Henry VIII's kitchen in Hampton Court Palace."

Providing inglenooks for show

houses for companies such as Potters Homes and Medina Gimson exhibiting in national shows at Olympia and the Birmingham NEC has proved a valuable way of promoting the business.

The shop and forge is open seven days a week. Mrs Ripley said: "We have to be open at weekends because that is the time most working people can come. These days people are working longer hours in order to stay afloat."

In spite of this, Mrs Ripley is looking forward to the future. Her son John has his own son, Edward, who "is already showing promise with a hammer. Only when people no longer want a cosy hearth do I feel we will be out of business."

Further details: 01580 880324.

Small companies switch on to green issues to get ahead

By ALAN JABEZ

BUSINESSES are becoming greener not just to improve their environmental friendliness but because it makes economic sense.

"We are starting to see a trend away from businesses struggling to meet new environmental requirements. Instead, they want to exceed them, as they can see the clear benefits to the bottom line," says Dr Hilary Newport, manager of the Department of the Environment's Helpline for businesses. Small businesses might well feel that they do not have time to tackle environmental issues. But there is a growing number of specialist advisory services to help smaller companies.

Last month the National Centre for Business and Ecology was set up at the University of Salford. It aims to provide smaller companies throughout the UK with advice on environmental issues, regulations and opportunities. It can also carry out a comprehensive environmental audit for companies to highlight areas for improvement.

The Co-op Bank is backing the new centre, committing £1 million to it over the next five years, working with four universities - Salford, Manchester, Ulster and the Metropolitan University in Manchester.

Philip Barton, the centre's director, says that, having the universities as academic members, they can call upon the expertise of hundreds of specialists in a broad range of scientific and business fields.

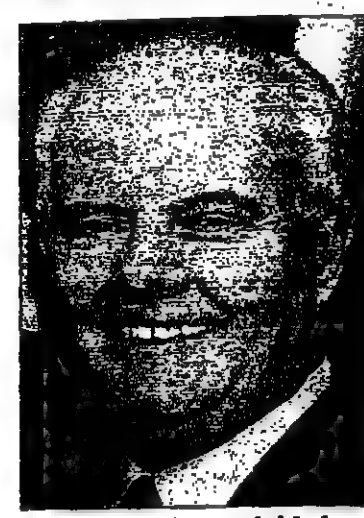
The charges for the services, says Mr Barton, will depend on the level of information or consultation required. "This could be as little as a few hundred pounds for a student placement at a company to a maximum of £500 a day for a major consultation," he says. Terry Thomas,

managing director of the Co-op Bank, says environmental issues are taken very seriously in most other northern European countries, so the new initiative will help to make British firms more competitive when they seek orders from overseas. National Centre for Business and Ecology: 0161-745 5276.

□ The Department of the Environment runs an Environmental Helpline providing free advice to businesses on a broad range of issues. Helpline: 0800 585794.

□ The Energy Efficiency Inquiries Bureau has recently published a Guide to Reducing Energy Bills, aimed at helping smaller companies. Details: 01235 436747.

□ The Small Company Environmental and Energy Management Scheme helps companies looking to make changes by funding up to half the cost of expert advice. Details: 0345 023423.



Thomas: welcomes initiative



The Government is to spend £4 million promoting the growing network of Business Links advisory centres to smaller businesses. The advertising and publicity campaign is due to roll out from early summer, when it is hoped that all the planned 260 Business Link centres will be up and running. According to recent figures, about 5,000 businesses a week are using Business Links, and half of these are companies with fewer than ten employees. For information on the nearest Business Link, call 0345 567765.

Small companies are being convinced by grant cowboys - advisers who promise to provide information on the estimated £5 billion of government and European grants for businesses, but who then disappear without delivering the goods. To help small companies to find their own way into the lucrative grants pot, Lloyds Bank (0345 343434) is offering a limited number of free demonstra-

tion disks of its grant-finding service. Lloyds customers can buy a full database of grants provided for £20. For non-customers, the disk is available from the Enterprise Advisory Service for £30 plus VAT (01730 269300).

Next week see the publication of the Royal Mail Guide to Direct Mail for Small Businesses. Produced with the Chartered Institute of Marketing, the book aims to provide advice on planning and monitoring campaigns, building mailing lists, copywriting and identifying customers. Available from April 23, the guide is published by Butterworth Heinemann (ISBN 0-7506-2747-6) and costs £14.99.

A one-day course on PR skills for small businesses takes place next week on April 23. Organised by Holder Swan, the PR consultancy, the seminar takes place in London and costs £250 plus VAT. Four further seminars are planned this year running from May through to September. Details: 0171-267 6022.

Designed for smaller companies are invited to enter for the European Union's European Design Prize awarded every two years. The closing date is Monday, May 20. Details: Judith Powling, Design Council, on 0171-839 6288.

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Richard Layton's pride and joy continues roar towards ITF's £50,000 prize

Charging Lions spell danger to leaders' safety

Just when Jones Boys Six and Gohlis Gods 65 thought it was safe, there is a new shark in the water. For weeks, the top two have been vying for position as the biggest fish in the Interactive Team Football (ITF) pond. Unbeknown to them, though, Richard Layton has been circling and is ready for the kill.

Layton's Lions are now a mere 20 points behind Jones Boys Six and catching fast. Carefully scanning the pages of *The Times* over the past few weeks, Layton has picked up snippets of information about his rivals and is now playing the odds in the FA Carling Premiership and trying to outwit his rivals.

For example, Gohlis Gods have relied on Peter Schmeichel in goal, so Manchester United's 3-1 disaster at The Dell on Saturday was the cause of much rejoicing in Stanmore. Not only had Gohlis Gods lost a handful of points, but Layton had made up even more ground by having Neil Shipperley in his line-up.

Layton said: "Of course, I am looking for players who are going to do well, but I also look to maximise the number of games they are going to play. I look to see which teams are playing on Saturday and then maybe Tuesday or Wednesday and make the transfers around that."

Recently, the wheeling and dealing has brought in the profits. On Easter Monday alone, his team earned 31 points. Layton signed up Robbie Earle six weeks ago and he has scored in his past two games: he bought Batty just in time for him to score his first goal for Newcastle United and even Ian Woan, brought in by Nottingham Forest for the match with Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, earned maximum points. Forest 5-1, but Woan scored.

"It is a bit of luck really," Layton said, "but I like to think I have got a bit of an idea what I am doing."

Peter Beardsley is a new acquisition. For most of the season, Layton has trusted in Robbie Fowler, but, with Liverpool lying idle until to-



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



night, Fowler was ditched and Beardsley brought in for Newcastle's encounter with Aston Villa on Sunday. He was then promptly dropped in time for the Merseyside derby tonight - Fowler making his comeback - and may lose his place to Ferdinand for Newcastle meeting with Southampton tomorrow.

It was the north London derby last night that caused the most pain. Layton has been a Tottenham Hotspur supporter for the past 25 years, yet he has none of their men in his team. He does, however, have Martin Keown in Layton's Lions and, last week, Jones Boys Six were playing with Chris Armstrong and Teddy Sheringham up front. Layton's heart may have been behind Tottenham, but

his wallet was rooting for Arsenal.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the Premiership. He would then have to be replaced.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 53 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prize.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have been encouraged to enter sides of their own, and on the opposite page we take a look at how they are progressing.

All matches in the Premiership and FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Jones Boys Six setting the pace, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Beardsley's inspirational form for Newcastle United led him to make a one-off appearance for the rapidly improving Layton's Lions

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*		Scores goal	
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal		Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal		Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Set off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† Must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

* Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 53p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 8am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 9pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 9pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 8am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out: Club: _____

Player in: Club: _____

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

IN
There are no transfers into the ITF game this week

OUT
There are no transfers out of the ITF game this week

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	680
2	Gohlis Gods 65	(S Gohlis)	656
3	Layton's Lions	(R Layton)	640
4	Percys Progress	(M Persich)	627
5	Jones Boys Four	(L M Jones)	625
6	Nigel's Right Foot	(D Patel)	612
7	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	611
8	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	610
9	Bunwell United	(R Barham)	610
10	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	610
11	Tonys All Stars	(A Boyland)	608
12	Kisspurs Five	(E Kisby)	608
13	Estuary	(P Gillet)	608
14	Fair Fair Flapstar	(C Woodward)	602
15	Apollo 2	(S Lazaridis)	602
16	Jordan XI	(P Barward)	602
17	Tommy Cookies XI	(P Johnson)	600
18	Stevens Lions 6	(S Brewer)	599
19	Adams Man Or God 4	(R Pike)	598
20	Jessica's Darlings 4	(A Nadson)	597
21	Teddy Five	(S Bate)	597
22	Omny Stars	(D Gornall)	596
23	Nobby One	(A Brown)	596
24	Jaggy Thistle	(J Bruce)	596
25	Sharon's Buds	(C Connolly)	596
26	Snort And Stubbs	(K Booth)	596
27	Sams All Stars	(J Allen)	596
28	Cameron Athan	(J R Reader)	592
29	Aldrie	(A Ford)	592
30	Turners Earners 2	(P Turner)	591
31	Arson United	(A Hewitt)	591
32	A	(M Corless)	591
33	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	590
34	Eggs N'ham	(D Warner)	589
35	Phlegm And Smither	(K Booth)	588
36	Riggles' Reds	(J Bridge)	587
37	Vesuvio	(G Batcher)	586
38	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	584
39	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	583
40	Platty Rovers	(I Platt)	581
41	Sensitiv City	(G Cole)	581
42	Top Heavy?	(P Young)	581
43	Albionville Town	(I Hedges)	581
44	Stevens Lions 8	(S Brewer)	579
45	Hastoe Rovers	(P Barron)	579
46	Russell 3	(D Shuter)	579
47	Doug's Desperados	(D F Richardson)	578
48	Monster Monster	(M Parish)	578
49	Widebeest	(J Albertson)	578
50	The Wee One Too	(A Nelson)	577
51	Dwynys Dribblers	(A J Philcock)	577
52	Nirvana FC	(J Donovan)	577
53	Justinton	(A Koni)	577
54	Jeannord 1860	(S Murray)	575
55	Turners Earners	(P Turner)	575
56	Rescue City 2	(J Sanderson)	575
57	Who Needs Mark	(N Persich)	575
58	Don Shuter C	(D Shuter)	575
59	Purple Sunflowers	(N Rickard)	575
60	Nadar	(A Navaszsky)	574
61	Burny's Babes	(T Burns)	574
62	Points Make Prizes	(D J Chopping)	573
63	Nate Lions	(M Brewer)	572
64	Strangers	(G Banks)	572
65	The Living Dead	(T Stockin)	572
66	Eleven For Nork	(P S Gubala)	571
67	Dun Elm Salts	(J Doyle)	571
68	DDH 2	(M Corless)	571
69	Kisspurs Two	(E Kisby)	571

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from now on today

Call the ITF hotline on 0891 774 795

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111	Parlman Beagood 1	(D Stojkovic)	558	178	Tellman	(T Wood)	545
112	Triple Peppers	(J B Portwood)	558	179	Rifflard's Rebels	(A Targett)	545
113	Boing Boing Bagg	(T Howe)	558	180	Emmy Bee	(E Burkinshaw)	545
114	Dour Rangers	(I Clayton)	558	178	Victoria Vandals	(D Gurner)	545
117	County Pine L	(J Hunt)	557	178	Robbos Rangers	(R Robinson)	545
117	Old Turf	(J Ratcliffe)	557	187	Chick O	(S Tahvil)	544
117	DM 001	(D McGregor)	557	187	The Young Guns	(S Shepherd)	544
120	Fergies Fury	(P Simpson)	556	187	Eddies Engineers	(R Eddon)	544
121	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	556	187	Harrington Inter	(D Lovell)	544
121	Wallace & Gromit FC	(S Hyams)	556	187	Trillixton Town	(P Tobias)	544
121	Whistogal Utd	(A Hughes)	555	187	Team Tobias	(A Allison)	544
121	Merts Mates 20	(M Hilt)	555	187	Platypus United	(J Richardson)	544
125	Wannabee Stars	(A P Harris)	554	194	Mac United	(T McCusker)	543
125	Good Times United	(T Stabelford)	554	194	CCFC Just Madness	(P Ugarte)	543
125	Lowsay Farm	(R Conway)	554	194	Egerton Park	(D Rhoades)	543
125	Conquering Eleven	(S Evans)	554	194	Manson The Person	(S Blane)	543
125	Built Around Les	(J Prosser)	554	194	Cartons Is God	(R Harrison)	543
125	Abergevenny Rovers	(S Smith)	554	199	Mighty Reds	(I Lewis)	542
131	Upum	(S Kavanagh)	553	199	Twilight United	(P C Dillworth)	542
131	Wells 5 Wonder	(A Wells)	553	199	The Super Doms	(D Teuma)	542
131	_____	(N Thompson)	553	199	Totterside United	(D Seal)	542
131	A Total Flop	(D Thandi)	553	199	Northbank Cardigan	(S Smith)	542
131	110 Percent	(M C Docherty)	553	199	Ray Hates Football	(M Woods)	542
136	Steve's Scores	(S Tinker)	552	199	Trillixton Town	(P Tobias)	542
136	Aberystwyth	(S Shand)	552	199	DM 002	(D McGregor)	542
136	Eddie's Eagles	(E Woods)	552	199	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	542
136	Tillhurst Tornadoes	(D Chamberlain)	552	208	Kellys Heroes	(K Elcock)	541
136	Tanners United	(N Lane)	552	208	Cleen Sheet XI	(I Rawlinson-Smith)	541
136	Evans Men	(W Doyle)	552	208	The Conjurors	(D J Farmer)	541
136	Purg'd Apricot Zon	(T Hudson)	552	208	Golsie Guaranteed	(B Jordan)	541
136	Clares Ducks	(T Collier)	552	208	No Defence OK	(J B Portwood)	541
144	Headstar	(I Stokes)	551	208	The Rockers	(N Whitley)	541
144	Pallistons Army	(J Pregon)	551	208	Randy Rovers	(F Phillips)	541
144	Dinamo Defiant	(J Woodhouse)	551	208	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	541
144	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	551	208	Racing Club Harrow	(G Williams)	541
144	Carling XI	(P Park)	551	208	Danny's Boys Team 2	(D Gould)	541
144	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	551	208	C	(M Corless)	541
144	The Fifty Grinders	(R N Smith)	550	219	Journeymen	(A Jordan)	540
144	Basford Bankers	(C Alvarado)	550	219	Menage A Crise 2	(P Young)	540
150	Overhill Rovers	(M James)	550	221	Demon Stones FC	(P McCauley)	539
153	Red Star Richmond	(S T Glanville)	549	221	Andys Elites	(A Poole)	539
153	Long Drive	(J Parker)	549	221	New Babes Eleven	(J Gowling)	539
153	_____	(A Hill)	549	221	Ashvale Town	(I Goodwin)	539
153	Alecan Dynamoes	(M Franks)	549	221	Seven Kings FC 1	(S Siddiqui)	539
153	Skunk City	(M Franks)	549	221	The Mighty Durston	(D Hall)	539
153	Seldom United	(T Armillago)	549	221	Joe Royle's Wink 2	(T Gammage)	539
153	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	549	221	Dublin Bohemians	(G Brannigan)	539
153	The 2 Uffies	(M Forde)	549	221	Gibbins Terry Mark	(T Gibbins)	539
153	Brjov	(M Minasian)	549	221	It's A Mugs Game	(K Booth)	539
162	JRFC 2	(J J Raff)	548	221	Sea's Team	(B Gurnam)	539
162	Le Socks	(I Aldous)	548	221	Turner's Utd	(I Turner)	539
162	Rueful Rabbits	(J Whitley)	548	233	NFC	(R Celler)	538
162	Stu's Dirty Dozen	(S House)	548	233	Narou	(G Bahdjellian)	538
162	JK's Dolphins	(J F Kitchner)	548	233	Stannmore Strikers	(D Aldous)	538
162	Joe Royle's Wink 3	(T Gammage)	548	233	Hannah's Hero XI	(I Price)	538
162	Strawberry Dynamo	(D Ball)	548	233	Kings	(E M Young)	538
162	The Shinking Ship	(T Blythe)	548	233	Northern Nashers	(P Sansom)	538
170	Rescue City	(J Sanderson)	547	239	JRFC 17	(J J Roth)	537
170	Achilles Heel	(M Koutas)	547	239	Headless Chicken	(B Norris)	537
170	QPR Auctioneers A	(S Kempher)	547	239	Noble Rangers	(A G W Whyte)	537
173	Only Can Saver	(M McKown)	546	239	Premier Choice	(S Ireland)	537
173	Kims Kickers	(G Sutton)	546	239	The Golden Boys	(T Webber)	537
173	Johnny's Giants	(J Saunders)	546	239	No Sam Today	(N Wobley)	537
173	Tour De Force	(C Cuffaz)	546	239	Here We Go	(S Smith)	537
173	Arabs	(G Howitt)	546	239	The Gentleman	(D Grassick)	537
178	Warren Wizards	(J Buckley)	546	239	_____	(_____)	537
178	Courans	(A Veighley)	545	239	Brads Bombers	(_____)	537
178	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	545	239	Donnay's Dream	(H Matthews)	537
178	The Dream Team	(J Saward)	545	239	Casualty	(_____)	537

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-2	-14
10102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+36
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-10	-31
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fodis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+5	+52
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	-12	-19
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10601	P Smick	Newcastle United	3.00	0	-5
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hislop	Newcastle United	3.00	+2	+5
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+1
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-8
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	+4	-19
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	-5	0
11002	D Charles	Southampton	0.75	-1	-29
11101	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.50	-1	-7
11201	D Seaman	Chelsea	1.00	-3	-18
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+28
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+4	-42
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-6
11401	L Mikosko	West Ham United	2.50	-2	-10
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-5
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-5	-3
11502	J Keaton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	+4	-29
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Ryan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35
11701	E Innes	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11702	A Dible	Manchester City	2.00	0	-41
11801	M Boenisch	Aston Villa	2.50	+4	+33
11802	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	-1
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.50	-4	-1
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-13
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-8	-68
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-8
12003	G Ward	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2	-7



Fabian De Freitas, second left, has enjoyed happier times with his ITF team, The Fab 12, than his club, Bolton

HOW THE PROFESSIONALS' ITF TEAMS ARE FARING

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	36	Silver Bend Club XI	(T Blake)	334
1	Danish Dynamite	(J Molby)	478	38	Toshy's Welsh Terrie	(J Rush)	333
2	West Shambles Utd	(S Webster)	433	38	Eleven From Heaven	(A Limpar)	333
3	Nash FC	(M Powell)	428	40	Irish Connection	(W Boland)	330
4	Rattus Norvegicus	(S Pearce)	412	41	Squarky Hubbes	(D Dicho)	329
5	Teds XI	(B Home)	398	42	Sabs Eleven	(S Bould)	326
6	Dred Select	(S Morgan)	393	43	Fargies Flyers	(D Ferguson)	321
7	Southcoast Old Boys	(M Allen)	387	44	Sheffield City FC	(C Tiler)	320
8	Cadbury's Bust	(D Bust)	387	44	Goochies	(N Southall)	320
9	The Ruff Necka	(R Fox)	386	46	Pedro's Pearls	(P Beardsley)	317
10	Macs Moodies	(A McDonald)	386	47	Mine Mine United	(S Hodge)	315
11	The Moody Blues	(N Spackman)	378	48	Tallight Town	(G O'Toole)	309
12	MBLS	(D Peacock)	377	48	Hitchhys XI	(K Hitchcock)	306
13	JC's Superstars	(S Clarke)	375	50	The True Vikings	(S Bjornby)	305
14	Dodgy Barnets Eleven	(J Beresford)	372	50	Complete Madness	(S Chettle)	304
15	Poehu	(M Kennedy)	371	51	Sheep In White Socks	(D Phillips)	304
16	Pure Silk	(T Sinclair)	369	51	Smokin Cigars	(N Zelic)	297
17	The Bluenoses	(J Spencer)	369	53	The Fair Boys	(L Clark)	295
18	J & F FC	(J Beresford)	368	54	Keepers Greasers	(S Ogrizovic)	290
19	Fantasia	(D Platt)	367	55	Gemmas Gems	(G Strachan)	278
20	The Crazy Boys	(N McDonald)	367	56	The Leprecons	(K Gillespie)	273
21	Bulldock Toon	(S Stone)	366	57	Kirkby Krunchers	(A Strabag)	272
22	The Fab 12	(F De Freitas)	363	58	Telfon Town	(K Branagan)	271
23	Whitby Wimmers	(S Whittaker)	355	59	Kit & Kaboodle	(J Moncur)	268
24	Quango Utd	(B Borrowes)	354	60	Smart Team	(J Gould)	268
25	Barkers Follies	(S Barker)	354	62	Raggy Rovers	(J Darby)	264
26	Kansas City Kings	(T Breaker)	353	62	Life's A Pitch	(B Marwood)	264
27	Robs Rockers	(R Lee)	353	62	Pie Men	(J Parkinson)	263
28	Bruce Bonus	(A Hinchcliffe)	352	64	Goalies 11	(D Seaman)	261
29	Ryton Raiders	(G Gillespie)	350	65	Foreign United	(R Sneekes)	254
30	Avenue Foch Town FC	(M Crossley)	348	66	Spice Islanders	(B Batsan)	248
31	Cracker Jacks	(S Elliott)	346	67	Manchester Marauders	(A Pickering)	246
32	The Warriors	(S Dylestra)	346	68	Ryton Wanderers	(P Shilton)	245
33	Prince's Team	(A Philippe)	338	69	One Footed Wonders	(D Fairclough)	224
34	Fast Attack	(D Lee)	337	70	Champagne Charlies	(S Osborn)	223
35	Elly's Eggs	(R Elliott)	335	71	Steam Utd	(J Williams)	213
36	TB's XI	(D Wise)	334	72			

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-13
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-13
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	-1	+2
30804	K Reedy	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-10
30805	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	-9
30901	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-5
30902	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8
30903	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	+3	-13
30904	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	+1
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	+3	+9
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	-2	-13
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
31004	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+12
31005	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31006	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	+5	+5
31007	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	-1	-18
31008	M Durberry	Chelsea	2.50	-1	+1
31009	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	-27
31010	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	-23
31011	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	0	-30
31012	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	0	-10
31013	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+4	0
31014	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
31015	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	0	-15
31016	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+16
31017	A Martin	West Ham United	1.50	0	-20
31018	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31019	S Bille	West Ham United	1.50	+2	+6
31020	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-2	-37
31021	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-2	-24
31022	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	-15
31023	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7
31024	D Bust	Coventry City	0.75	0	+5
31025	B Borrowes	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15
31026	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-17
31027	L Dais	Coventry City	1.50	0	+6
31028	M Holmes	Manchester City	1.50	+2	+5
31029	A Kermaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-3
31030	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	+2	+7
31031	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	2.50	+3	+39
31032	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	+1	+26
31033	C Tiler	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1
31034	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	-2	-15
31035	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	-2	-19
31036	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	+1	+1
31037	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-17
31038	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-13
31039	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-20
31040	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+1
31041	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-10
31042	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+6	+13
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+38
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+1	+34
40106	P Wurtz	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
40107	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+10
40108	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+38
40109	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+14
40110	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	+6	+9
40111	R Gigg	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+23
40112	R Keane	Manchester United	2.50	+1	+41
40113	L Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	+3	+45
40114	N Butt	Manchester United	2.00	+3	+43
40115	D Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	+2	+42
40116	S Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
40117	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+42
40118	I Woon	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+6	+60
40119	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+2	+53
40120	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+21
40121	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+1	+35
40122	K Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+1

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+3	+40
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+3	+30
41413	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	4.00	0	+7
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	0	+30
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	+3	+36
41503	A Limpar	Everton	2.50	+1	+28
41504	B Home	Everton	1.50	0	+26
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	+1	+38
41507	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+14
41508	A Kanchelskis	Everton	8.00	+1	+67
41601	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+3	+32
41602	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+5
41603	P Teller	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+35
41604	M Isaacs	Coventry City	3.00	0	+8
41605	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41606	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+1	+44
41701	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41702	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+41
41703	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+24
41704	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+38
41705	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+54
41706	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+25
41707	C Brown	Manchester City	1.00	+2	+3
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+3	+40
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	+4	+38
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+46
41804	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	+4
41805	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+3	+81
41806	C Higgin	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+28
41807	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
41808	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41809	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+26
41810	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1	+35
41811	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41812	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	+2	+24
41813	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11
41814	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+2	+17
41815	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
41816	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+2	+32
41817	S Curcio	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+4	+32

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+3	+90
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+2	+28
50104	K Gallagher	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+15
50105	N Goodmanson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+4	+66
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+2	+58
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	+1	+18
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	+1	+35
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	0	+41
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+2	+37
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	+4	+27
50304	A Sillars	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+7
50305	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+1	+103
50402	K Collymore	Liverpool	7.50	+3	+68
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.75	0	+19
50501	A Yaboa	Leeds United	7.50	0	+83
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+2	+42
50503	P Maslinga	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
50506	T Brofin	Leeds United	5.50	+2	+23
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+4	+81
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	2.50	+2	+44
50603	P Kibson	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50606	P Asprille	Newcastle United	6.50	+1	+13
50701	J Whittingham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+1	+78
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+6	+66
50704	R Rosenzthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+1	+32
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	+4	+35
50803	D Diclho	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+30
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+4	+14
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	1.50	+1	+46
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+31
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+18
50904	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+14
50906	E Bakou	Wimbledon	2.50	+6	+48
50907	E Ewelli	Wimbledon	0.25	+2	+2
51001	M La Tassier	Southampton	8.00	+4	+37
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	+4	+61
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	0	+26
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+7	+41
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+6	+49
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+22
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	+1	+49
51202	D Bargaikamp	Arsenal	7.50	+1	+47
51203	J Harrison	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+20
51301	C Kewell	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51206	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	+2	+45
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+33
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+4	+43
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+11
51307	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+2	+5
51401	T Botes	West Ham United	4.50	+3	+47
51403	B Boegers	West Ham United	2.00	0	0
51404	I Donche	West Ham United	0.75	+1	+47
51405	Dani	West Ham United	2.50	0	+7
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	0	+27
51502	D Amolczchi	Everton	2.00	0	+31
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	0	+30
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	0	+82
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	+2	+82
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	+2	+27
51605	N Lamptey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51606	E Whelan	Coventry City	4.00	+1	+98
51607	E Jesty	Coventry City	3.00	+3	+8
51701	U Roster	Manchester City	5.50	+3	+51
51702	N Quinlan	Manchester City	4.00	+1	+44
51705	G Craneay	Manchester City	2.50	0	+15
51706	R Ekelund	Manchester City	2.50	0	+1
51707	M Kavalezhvili	Manchester City	1.00	+2	+5
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+59
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+75
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+28
51805	A Aschinger	Aston Villa	1.50	0	+36
51901	J Florjot	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+43
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8
51903	P Whittleman	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+5
51904	N Barnby	Middlesbrough	4.00	+1	+44
52001	J McGlinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	+3	+38
52003	M Patelalain	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+11
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+26

